



# AGAWAM

## Advertiser News

CAR-RT SORT\*\*\* C011  
Agawam Public Li  
750 Cooper St  
Agawam MA 01001-2177

Volume XXI Number 8

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

February 26, 1998

*Johnson To Appoint Members...*

## Committee To Study Issue Of Rec Complex

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

It's time to get serious about having fun.

To keep pace with the growing demand on the town's existing athletic and recreational facilities, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson is putting together a committee of town residents to look at ways to expand existing facilities and identify sites for future growth.

As outlined in his state-of-the-city address earlier this month, Johnson will appoint seven to nine town residents to a study committee to work with Recreation Director Mary Keller to explore options for expansion and growth, as well as delving into the feasibility of developing a comprehensive recreation complex to serve residents of all ages and interests.

Anyone wishing to serve on the committee should send a letter of interest to the Mayor's office.

SEE REC COMPLEX - Page 2...

*Ameruoso And Zabielski Are Pleased With Findings...*

## Dropout Rate At AHS Is Well Below State's Target Figure

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

For the first two terms of this academic year, the dropout rate at Agawam High School is well below the state's target figure.

At Tuesday night's School Committee meeting, AHS Principal Joseph Zabielski reported a dropout rate of less than one percent for the period since school opened in September until the end of the second term on January 31st. Out of school population of 1,277, nine students dropped out to join the work force or to pursue getting a G.E.D. rather than a high school diploma. One student was expelled.

Broken down by class, no sophomores dropped out, but five freshmen, three juniors, and two seniors left the High School.

One senior left school, but did not leave the education process; rather, one young woman finished her high school requirements a half year earlier than her classmates and opted to enroll in a four-year college for the spring semester in January.

Zabielski said, "This news is very good. As of January 31st, we have a dropout rate of .7 percent

and we're working hard to keep it that way when we finalize our numbers for the school year in June."

School Committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson asked where AHS's dropout rate fell on the scale established by the state Board of Education's guidelines for judging a school's performance and was told that the state's target dropout rate was 4.5 percent.

Having worked in a number of school systems over his career, School Superintendent Frank Ameruoso deemed the statistics on school dropouts in Agawam as "fantastic."

"Let's be thankful that we have an administration at the High School that is proactively trying to reduce our dropout numbers," Ameruoso said.

Zabielski credited AHS's administrative team as well as the dropout counselor, guidance counselors, and the substance abuse counselor for keeping the dropout rate so low.

SEE DROPOUT RATE - Page 2...

## St. David's Church Sends Help Overseas...



LAST WEEKEND, members of St. David's Episcopal Church pitched in to pack donated clothing and other nonperishable items that will be sent to the needy in the African nation of Rwanda. The volunteers included (from left to right) Donald Engstrom, Suzanne Howatt, Jane Griesbach, Mary Chiles, Wesley Carr, Reverend Len Cowan (pastor of St. David's), and Stephen T. Wine. (See related photo in "Church.") Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



**DROPOUT RATE - from Page 1...**

"We are watching this like a hawk," Zabielski said. "We follow up on every hint that a student might be in trouble and we try to do something to help that student."

**Keeping In Touch With Students Who've Left AHS**

In addition to working with at-risk students, the staff tries its best to keep in touch with students who have left school in an attempt to ensure students have every opportunity to succeed in an educational program.

As an example, Zabielski told of bumping into a student who had left school and was working as a waitress.

"I spoke to the student to see if we could get an educational piece in place. Under the dual enrollment program with local community colleges, students taking certain courses can earn college and high school credit to help them complete their high school diploma requirements," Zabielski said.

In terms of students transferring to other educational institutions, AHS experienced a rate of seven percent for the year; last year, the rate was identical.

This year, 93 students transferred from AHS. The breakdown submitted by Zabielski showed seven students going to the Job Corps; three students opting to finish their diplomas at night school; four students completing their diplomas at the half year; and 72 students going to other school systems, most because their families moved out of town.

A total of four students were transferred because they were improperly attending AHS, as their families did not reside in town; and three students left AHS due to changes in their foster home living arrangements by the state Department of Social Services.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**TOWN OF AGAWAM  
BOARD OF APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998 at

**REC COMPLEX - from Page 1...**

"My vision for a comprehensive recreation facility would include outdoor spaces such as athletic fields, volleyball courts, tennis courts, playground equipment, bocce, and shuffleboard, as well as indoor facilities for basketball courts, billiard tables, table tennis, and craft areas," Johnson said.

According to Ms. Keller, a recreation center would allow her department to offer recreational programs to all age and interest groups both during the day and at night.

"The big thing to remember is that recreation is not just sports," Ms. Keller said. "We have a lot of requests for activities that aren't sports. There are a million things people would like to do, like arts, crafts, music, drama, and hobbies."

**No Town Recreation Facilities**

Currently the town has no recreation facilities and must schedule programs held in the schools after 5:00 p.m. in order to accommodate after-school use of the buildings for school sports, daycare programs, and youth groups like the Brownies and Boy Scouts, Ms. Keller said.

"What we need is just more space in general," Ms. Keller said. "There has been talk in the community of boys' and girls' clubs, a teen center, or a community center, and we'd like the committee to explore all those ideas before we commit to anything."

Since she took over as recreation director three years ago, the number of people taking part in town-sponsored athletic and recreation programs has nearly tripled, Ms. Keller said.

With many outdoor sports playing multiple seasons and with participation in both town-sponsored and private leagues growing, the town

6:45 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of COUNTRY ESTATES PARTNERSHIP, which is seeking to amend Case No. 1192 in accordance with Section 180-62 and 180-55, of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for an addition to the existing facility at the premises identified as: 1200 SUFFIELD STREET.

Doreen Prouty, Acting Chairperson  
Published: February 26, 1998

needs more athletic fields, Johnson said.

**Short-Term & Long-Term Goals**

Johnson said he wants the committee to break down its work into short-term solutions for bringing on more athletic fields in the next two years while studying the long-term possibilities for a comprehensive recreation center.

"Tuckahoe Turf Farm will be under prime consideration as a site for a recreation center, but I have no specific site in mind," Johnson said.

A 1994 design plan for a sports complex on the northern portion of the Tuckahoe Turf Farm site has been put on hold while the legal battle for ownership of the site continues between the town and developer Ralph DePalma, and until Phase II of the Route 57 expansion (which bisects the site) is completed.

Drawn up by students of the Conway School of Design, the plan calls for multi-use fields for baseball, soccer, football, and softball; basketball and volleyball courts; a playscape; and a concession stand.

Besides researching possible sites, the recreation study committee will be charged with determining the level of community support, particularly in terms of financing, for a recreation center.

Because the town's other capital needs (i.e., new fire station, school additions, new DPW garage, library expansion) take precedence over a recreation complex, the study committee will have to seek other means of funding for the project if they find there is enough community support, Johnson said.

Financing for a recreation center could come from a combination of private donations, state and federal grants, and a debt exclusion override of Proposition 2½, Johnson said.

A debt exclusion override of Proposition 2½ is a temporary lifting of the tax cap to pay for a specific debt. It would require a referendum.

*Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday afternoon at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation...*

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- Theodore Roosevelt



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## Letters To The Editor

### Let's Support The Rockets' Visit To Agawam High

#### To The Editor And The Residents Of Agawam:

The Agawam High School P.T.S.O. will be hosting the **Harlem Rockets on March 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School Gymnasium.**

This is the fourth year that the P.T.S.O. has had the Rockets visit Agawam. This year will be a NEW and EXCITING show for all ages.

The referees for the game will be Agawam superstars in themselves — the famous Dan Pryce and Phil McGeoghan. But, as those of you who have come to past shows know, the "Agawam All-Stars" have tricks up their sleeves.

There will be elected officials, high school students, community representatives, and faculty members playing the basketball game against the Rockets. The Agawam "All-Stars" are confident that they will win.

Even though the Rockets have never lost a game, the "All-Stars" have a few secret weapons to assure a good game at least.

Tickets are \$5 each (pre-game), or \$6 at the door or after 4:00 p.m. on March 4th. They can be purchased ahead of time through the Mayor's office, Agawam High School (Ms. McSweeney's office), or by calling Joann McGeoghan at 786-1982.

Sincerely,  
Joann McGeoghan  
President of AHS's P.T.S.O.

### Resident Responds To Bitzas's Letter On BP Issue

#### To The Editor:

Mr. George Bitzas wrote on February 12, 1998 about his strong displeasure with both parties, power plant and opponents. He particularly condemns those parties/individuals, CCBA members, who reached a settlement with Berkshire Power.

Apparently Mr. Bitzas never sat down and tried to figure out why these people took the money. I think George should go talk to those people and ask them why, before he criticizes them. George may find that he was the reason they "took the money."

George and his fellow councilors sat at public hearings and yawned and rolled their eyes. I attended one public hearing, where approximately 10 proponents of which were either Berkshire officials, paid supporters, and maybe two people who spoke for the plant, and approximately 50 people against. At the end of that hearing, after hours of testimony against the power plant, one city councilor pulled a prepared statement out of her purse and read her reasons for supporting Berkshire Power.

Did anything anyone said have an impact on her decision? Did she hear or listen to anyone who spoke? Why did she even sit through the hearing? That same councilor wanted to ban A-frame signs

from the front of convenience stores. Now, there's a real hazard!

Forget about the tons of pollutants a power plant produces. Forget about the million-plus gallons of water per day — let's get the A-frame sign hazard put to bed. Now, there's an important issue.

The only good side of a power plant that comes to mind is the tax revenue it will generate for our town. I don't feel this revenue will compensate for the bad the power plant produces. The revenue will not remove the eyesore.

It will not change the decline in property values for Shoemaker Lane and surrounding areas. I feel the people who took the money at least have some compensation for their declining property values, and the health hazards they now face.

Mr. Bitzas, you and your fellow councilors who supported this plant and denied the citizens their right to vote on this issue over three years ago, "took the money"!

Well, George, now I urge you and your fellow dissenting members to do just that. When the time comes, George, "take the money" — go for the full \$3.5 million in taxes. Make them pay what they owe, just like the rest of the businesses in town. Another good idea, George, is to ban their competition. Berkshire Power will love you for that!

That should be worth another million a year. So, George, please "take the money"!

Tim Ratkiewicz  
Agawam

### Girl Scout Council Says Thanks For Donation Of Ad

#### To The Editor:

Thank you so very much for the donation of the Girl Scout Cookie Sale display ad for Pioneer Valley Girl Scout Council's Annual Cookie Sale!

Our sale is very important to our girls and we very much appreciate your kind support!

With the help of people such as you, we are proud to say current sales are up five percent over 1997. We should have no trouble obtaining our goal of 255,000 packages sold!

All revenues from the sale go directly to Pioneer Valley Girl Scouts in the form of programs and membership support.

Thanks for helping make a difference for the youth of our communities!

Sincerely,  
Angelika Melien  
Director of Marketing & Fund Development  
Pioneer Valley Girl Scout Council, Inc.

### Donatini Family Appreciates Help During Time Of Sorrow

#### To The Editor:

At this time we would like to send special thanks to the very important people during our time of sorrow in the passing of Joseph Donatini.

First we would like to thank the Agawam Fire Dept. for all their wonderful and quick response for the times we needed them.

The Agawam Police, the Massachusetts Easter Seals, and Homecare. A special thanks to Ellen Sekkal, the R.N. for Easter Seals, Dr. Albert Romano, and all our friends and family. We will never forget all the help and support you gave our family.

Thank you again,  
Mrs. Kathleen Donatini  
Mrs. Maureen Fredey  
Robert Fredey

## Veterans' Agent Seeks Info Regarding Missing U.S. Flags

#### To The Editor:

One of the goals of the Agawam Veterans' Council is to complete a Street of Flags of the entire Memorial Day parade route. A long-term goal is to continue the Street of Flags down Main Street to the new State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery which will be dedicated on Memorial Day 2000.

On October 8th of last year, the official groundbreaking took place on the cemetery site. Our council decided to double flag the telephone poles in the area of the cemetery and the Parade of Colors route along South Street. Keeping in mind some of the inquiries requesting we keep the Street of Flags up for a longer period, and being so excited about the wonderful groundbreaking ceremony, we decided to wait until after Veterans' Day to take the flags down.

When volunteers were able to remove the flags, it was found that many of the flags were missing, as well as a good many of the brackets that were used to fasten the flagpoles. Although some of the neighbors reported seeing teenagers vandalizing the flags, we sincerely hope that was not the case, and that someone may have picked up fallen flags and removed them for safekeeping. If that is the case, then we would greatly appreciate the return of the flags. Approximately 30 flags are missing, and will need to be replaced at a great cost.

The loss of so many flags is disheartening. If you know the whereabouts of any of our flags, please let me know at the Veterans' Service Office. We would also appreciate any donations to replace or add to the flag fund. It costs us about \$25 to replace a double flag pole, but we are grateful for donations of any amount.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Bitzas  
Veterans' Agent, Town of Agawam

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...

## Best local news...

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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**COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME**

Saturday, February 28th  
Operation Friendship's Roast Beef Dinner  
At Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
Servings: 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
Call 786-7898 or 789-2410 for reservations

Wednesday, March 4th  
"The Harlem Rockets" vs. "Agawam All-Stars"  
At AHS gymnasium  
7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door  
(Advance tickets available from Ms. McSweeney at AHS, the Mayor's office, or by calling 786-1982)

Friday, March 6th  
Agawam Senior Center Melody Band  
(sponsored by Agawam Cultural Council)  
At Agawam Senior Center, Wright St., Agawam  
7:30 p.m.  
Admission is free and open to the public

Monday, March 9th  
"Scholarship Fair" at AHS  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
For more information, call 821-0527

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## LETTERS - from Page 4...

## Quail Run Estates Is Bustling With Community Projects

### To The Editor:

There is a great spirit among senior citizen residents of Quail Run Estates. Far from ready to take a backseat in life, in recent months they have been active in several community projects:

In October, funds were raised to give a "trick or treat" party for the children of Brightside and the grandchildren of residents. November was "Thanksgiving Basket Month." Many, many pounds of dry staples and boxes of canned goods were sent to the Open Pantry.

In addition, a "Family & Friends Thanksgiving Brunch" was held at Cardinal Drive.

In December, the "Mitten Tree" was aglow with dozens of handmade items sent for distribution to needy children by various Springfield-area organizations.

"Make-A-Wish" foundation was the project for January thanks to Kate Browning and her two sisters, Eleanor Malone and Patricia Edwards, residents of Quail Run. We counted and packaged several hundred angels for use by the Foundation, as well as purchasing dozens for our own use.

In February, we are collecting funds for the Agawam Fireman's Museum in which we, as residents of Agawam, are very interested. Thank you, Mr. Pisano, for the artifacts you sent for us to display as part of the presentation.

We have been fortunate to have as our guide through these endeavors, and many, many others, Mrs. Dorothy Mapes, our Activities Director.

Sincerely yours,  
Carolyn H. Mosher  
Quail Run Estates

## Regular Council Meeting Agenda For Monday, March 2nd

1. Citizen's Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 2/17/98
5. Declaration from Council President
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances
  - (a) Resolutions
    1. TR-98-5-A Resolution to Encourage the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Assume the Unfunded Pension Liability for all Hampden County Retirees and Employees (Mayor).
7. Report of Council Committees
  - None.
8. Elections
  - None.
9. Public Hearings
  - None.
10. Old Hearings
  - (a)
    1. TOR-97-13-(PH-97-20)-An Ordinance to Amend Ch. 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam by adding Art. XIV entitled Personal Wireless Services Facilities, Towers & Repeaters (3rd Reading).
    2. TOR-98-1-An Ordinance to Amend Section 49-7(8) of the Code of the Town of Agawam to Create the Position of Personnel Assistant (Mayor)(1st Reading)(Tabled on 2/2/98 - Left of table 2/17/98).
    3. TO-98-12-Transfer-\$23,641.00 from Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to Fire-Motor Vehicles (12204-5850)(Mayor).

6:30 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of M. REZA MEHRABI AND RACHEL D. STERN, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-8 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for a kennel at the premises identified as: 165 LEONARD STREET.  
Ronald A. Hebert, Chairman  
Published: February 26, 1998

## Tax Tips For 1998 From The IRS

### HIGHER DEDUCTION FOR SOME

Starting in 1998, the Taxpayer Relief Act raises the standard deduction for people who can be claimed as a dependent by another. For 1997, this amount was the greater of \$650 or the person's income, but not over \$4,150.

For future years, it will be the greater of \$650 (adjusted for inflation) or the person's earned income plus \$250, up to the regular standard deduction for a single person.

This change will relieve many working dependents with under \$250 of investment income of the need to file a tax return or to have any tax withheld from their pay.

### WITHHOLDING OPTION FOR SOME PAYMENTS

People getting certain government payments can opt to have federal income tax withheld from them. These payments include unemployment compensation, tier 1 railroad retirement benefits, Commodity Credit Corporation loans, or certain crop disaster payments.

"Since federal income tax doesn't have to be withheld from these payments, this request is voluntary," the IRS says. "However, the choice may eliminate the need for some people to file quarterly estimated tax payments."

Just fill out Form W-4V, "Voluntary Withholding Request." Give one form to each payer from which you receive these types of payments.

Call 1-800-829-3676 to get the form.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998 at



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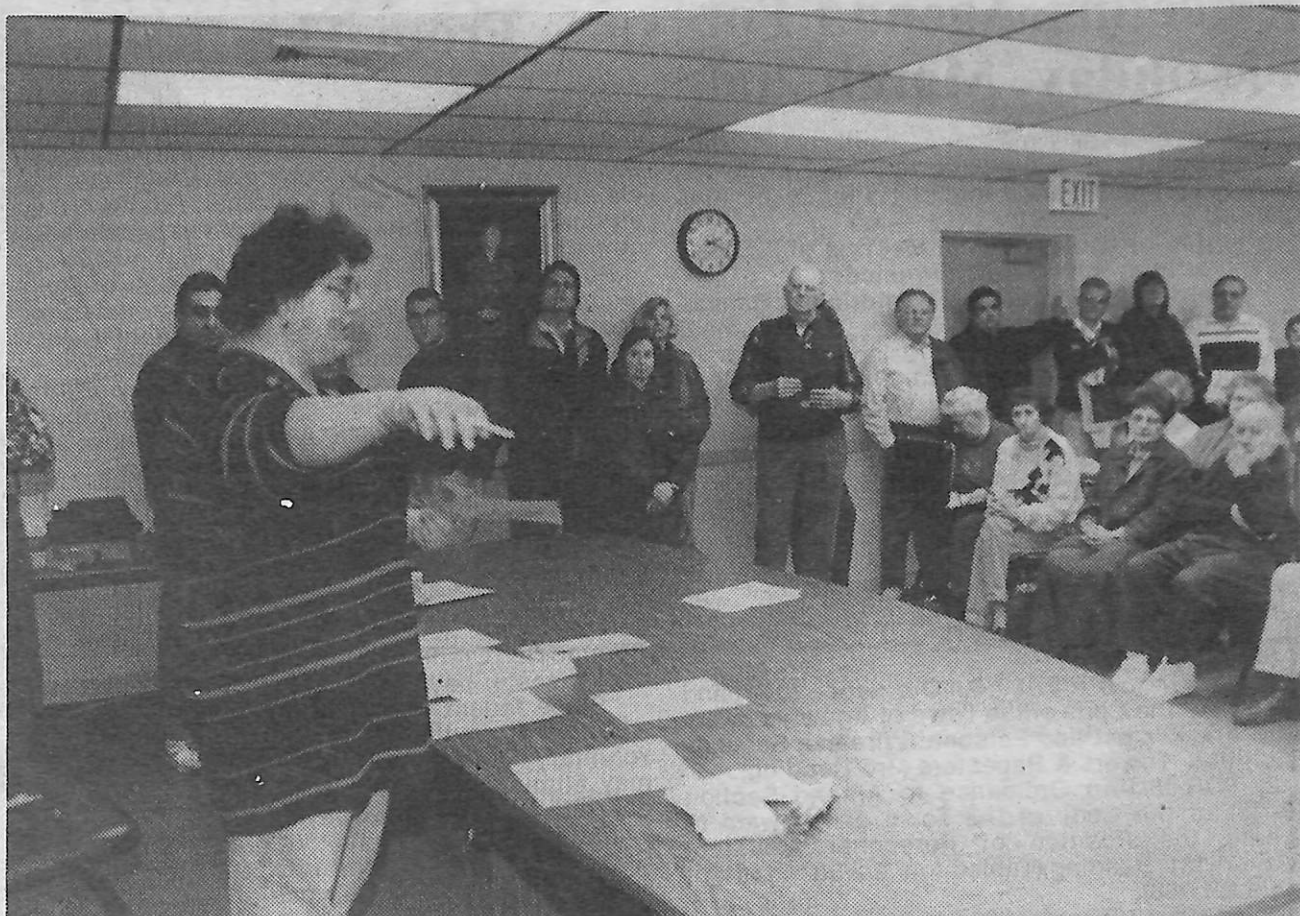
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## Agawam Democrats Pick Delegates...



ON FEBRUARY 7TH at the Agawam Police Station Community Room, town Democrats elected delegates for the upcoming state convention. The top vote-getter was former Agawam Treasurer Rudy Altobelli. Among those in attendance at the Democratic caucus were City Councilor Gina Letellier (at left, top photo) and Tom Heley and Doug Bodman (in left photo). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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## Agawam Police Dept. Arrest Blotter For February 17th-22nd

On February 17, 1998, Tomasz Kisiel of 95 Euclid Avenue, Springfield was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol. Arresting officer was Mark Poggi.

On February 18, 1998, Andrew Delevo of 109 Riviera Dr, Agawam was arrested and charged with domestic assault & battery, and assault & battery with a dangerous weapon. Arresting officer was Steven Grasso.

On February 19, 1998, George H. Stelmach of 651 Frank Smith Road, Longmeadow was arrested and charged with domestic assault & battery. Arresting officer was Mark Poggi.

On February 19, 1998, Linda J. Whitney of 50 Crystal Ave., Springfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting. Arresting officer was Eric Camerlin.

On February 20, 1998, Brian D. Rivers of 491 North St., Agawam was arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol, speeding, driving a motor vehicle without a proper inspection sticker. Arresting officer was Richard Riccio.

On February 20, 1998, Shane D. Connor of 282 South Loomis St., Southwick was arrested and charged with being a minor transporting alcohol.

On February 20, 1998, Joseph P. Malanson of 8 Independence Road, Feeding Hills was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol. Arresting officer was Brian Connor.

On February 20, 1998, Liam L. Wright of 69 Court St., Westfield was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol. Arresting officer was Brian Connor.

On February 21, 1998, Miquel A. Medina of 25 Suffield St., Agawam was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol. Arresting officer was Keith Bopko.

On February 22, 1998, Deborah M. Laws of 94 Pineview Circle, Agawam was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Arresting officer was Anthony Chicetti.

On February 22, 1998, Gerard J. Kane of 14 Paul Revere Dr., Feeding Hills was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle in violation of license class, and driving without a registration sticker. Arresting officer was John Kunasek.

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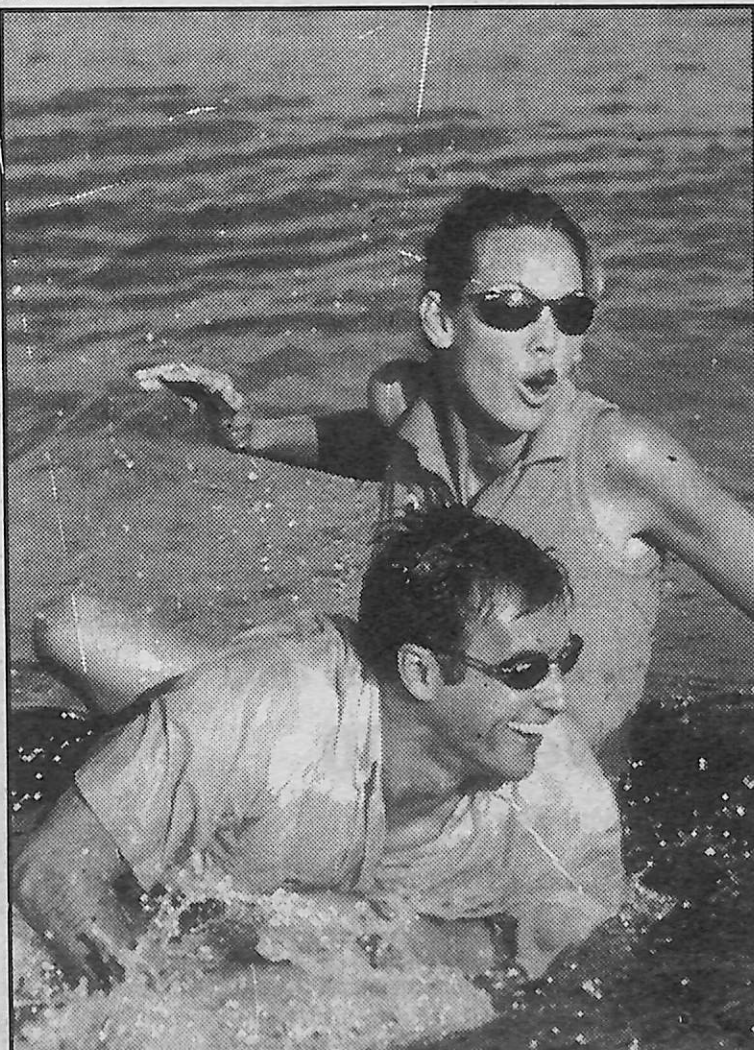
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At The February 19th Planning Board Meeting...

## Wireless Telecommunications Facility Is Approved For Main Street; Other Site Plan Requests Tabled

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

Last week, town planners okayed a plan to build a wireless telecommunications transmitting facility on Main Street and tabled two other site plan requests in order to allow time to gather more information.

Planning Board members were unanimous in approving Omnipoint, Inc.'s plan to construct a 190-foot monopole tower at Lennie's Fiberglass at 1804 Main Street, months after asking for more details, including the reason why the pole was not sited further back from the street.

Omnipoint Site Acquisition Manager James Ross displayed a new site plan showing the 20-foot x 40-foot compound containing the 190-foot tower had been moved as far to the rear of the parcel as allowed by the Conservation Commission.

In September, the Planning Board approved Omnipoint's site plan for a 180-foot monopole to be located on Provin Mountain. But, the board members were concerned with the visual impact of Omnipoint's proposal for the 190-foot monopole tower at Lennie's Fiberglass and sent the site plan back for more information.

The new site plan shows a 20-foot-wide access easement from Main Street to the compound area, with a 12-foot-wide crushed gravel driveway. The compound area will be enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence topped with barbed wire.

"We've done a tremendous amount of wetlands repair and restoration," Ross said. "We cleaned up all the existing zoning violations and we will restore a 10,000-square-foot area with native vegetation."

Any trees that are moved will be replaced with fast-growing, native hardwood trees that are expected to reach heights of 35 to 40 feet within five years, and the company agreed to meet with Planning Director Deborah S. Dachos and Planning Board members to work out a detailed landscaping plan.

Ms. Dachos said she would like to see fast-growing plantings close to the road and along the driveway easement to help screen the site, reducing the visual impact of the facility.

After checking with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Ross said the tower will not be close enough to an airport to require special lighting.

\*\*\*

The board put off acting on a request submitted by Frank "Mushy" Grasso to construct two vinyl garages at Mushy's Golf Driving Range at 369 Main Street, citing the need for a more detailed site plan.

Phil Cooley, owner of Duck Under Me Covers, said he plans to construct one garage for storage inside the former batting cage at the sports complex and a second garage on the property to be used as an advertisement for his company.

Cooley said he displays his vinyl garages at area home shows and has permits for garages advertising his business in Otis and Tolland.

"This was part of my deal with Mushy's," Cooley said. "It's good advertising for me on a main street."

Grasso said he wants to build the garage inside the now-defunct batting cage as a security measure to safeguard the used tractors, wheelbarrows, mowers, and other used equipment that he has for sale on his property.

Before the board grants approval to the plan, Ms. Dachos said the site should be cleaned up and existing zoning violations, including storage of unregistered vehicles, should be corrected.

Grasso said he has the right to have the garages constructed on his property and that most of the violations have been corrected.

Asked to consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs to screen the batting cage, Grasso replied, "I won't live long enough to see shrubs grow high enough. The case has been there for 10 years as it is."

The board agreed to table the site plan after setting a date for a site visit.

"I don't know why it should be such an issue to plant some fast-growing shrubs on the Main

Street side and the back of the batting cage," said board member Edward Shibley.

\*\*\*

Also tabled at Thursday night's meeting was a plan submitted by a West Springfield company looking to expand its operation by building a manufacturing plant on Silver Street.

Toner Plastics plans to build an all-metal manufacturing plant to house two production lines which make the plastic string used in children's craft sets. The operation will include the manufacturing, packing, and shipping of the craft paks sold primarily through large discount chain stores.

Randy Conklin, of the O'Leary Company, said the plastics firm expects to expand its manufac-

turing operation at the Agawam site in about 18 months and build an office addition with a wood and masonry facade facing Silver Street.

Groundbreaking is expected in mid-March and the building is expected to be operational in July. Toner Plastics currently employs 14 and will have 20 employees in the near future at the Agawam site, Conklin said.

For their next meeting, the board asked to have a more detailed landscape design plan, a new location for the employee parking lot, more details on the manufacturing process, and information relating to the facade of the building.

Board members wanted to know what plans the company has for the facade of the building if its plan to build an office addition falls through.

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Working On Ordinance With Locke...

## Bitzas Wants To Ban Future Power Plants In Agawam

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

Enough is enough. And in the case of power plants, one is enough according to one town councilor.

Even though he's been a steadfast supporter of the \$185 million Berkshire Power project for the economic benefits the plant will bring to the town, Councilor George Bitzas wants to ban the siting of any more power plants in Agawam.

In consultation with Town Solicitor Thomas S. Locke, Bitzas said he is working on an ordinance to amend the zoning code to prohibit the construction of future power plants. The ordinance is expected to appear on the council's agenda in the near future.

"I did support Berkshire Power, but one power plant is enough," Bitzas said. "We had a referendum and the majority of the people wanted the plant, but I don't think that majority would want another power plant. We have to safeguard the future of our town, especially when we look at the potential for future development."

Bitzas said he is worried that other power developers will find Agawam an attractive location with the Tennessee Gas pipeline, the transmission lines, an available water supply, and the infrastructure to support a power plant.

### Make Exemptions More Difficult

As it did in the case of Berkshire Power, the State Department of Public Utilities has the authority to exempt power plants from local zoning. But, Bitzas said he believes an ordinance banning power plants could make it more difficult for the DPU to grant such exemptions in the future.

While the DPU did grant Berkshire Power a zoning exemption, the decision also required Berkshire Power to fulfill all the conditions set on the plant by the local Zoning Board of Appeals. Both company and town officials agreed that the DPU would not have been likely to grant the exemption if the power developers had not gone through the local permitting process.

Similarly, a recent decision by the State Department of Transportation and Energy will allow telecommunications companies to seek exemptions from local zoning. But, that decision does not invalidate local zoning by-laws, according to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

An article published in the PVPC newsletter urges cities and towns to adopt zoning ordinances for siting and constructing cell phone towers, and advises a review of local zoning ordinances for any language that would exempt cell phone towers from zoning review.

Bitzas likened his proposal to ban future power plants to the council's effort in trying to amend the zoning code to control cell phone towers, even though the state does have the power to grant local exemptions.

"If we don't do anything, we make it easier for the DPU to grant exemptions. But, if we show the DPU that the town does not want another power plant, it will be harder for other developers to get an exemption," Bitzas said.

Amending the zoning codes requires the approval of a two-thirds majority (eight votes) of the Town Council. Bitzas is confident he will have the support of the council to adopt an ordinance banning power plants.

Attorney Locke could not be reached for comment.

## Agawam "Swears In" New Firefighter...



AT AGAWAM TOWN HALL on February 10th, new firefighter/paramedic David Spafford (second from right) was sworn in by Town Clerk Richard Theroux. Looking on are (from left) Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Martin, and Fire Chief David Pisano. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Keenan Files Legislation To Provide Tax Relief For Working Families

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan filed legislation in Boston providing tax relief to working families. The legislation exempts the first \$1,000 of dividend and interest income from the so-called "unearned income" tax, and permanently doubles the personal exemptions for all taxpayers.

"These two innovations alone do more to help the working families and the taxpayers in Massachusetts than any other tax-related proposal before the legislature," Keenan said. "This legislation would provide the greatest tax relief in the shortest period of time to lower- and middle-income families and seniors."

One of the two provisions for the legislation would establish a \$1,000 exemption for dividend and interest income. The second provision would double the personal exemptions permanently from \$2,200 to \$4,400 for individuals, \$3,400 to \$6,800 for heads of households, and from \$4,400 to \$8,800 for married couples filing jointly.

The current exemptions levels have not increased for 15 years, allowing their value to be significantly eroded by inflation.

Doubling the personal exemption would reduce state tax revenues this fiscal year by about \$85 million. The new exemption on dividend and interest earnings would result in a \$25 million

revenue reduction. The total revenue reduction of \$110 million amounts to only 22 percent of the \$500 million surplus expected for fiscal 1998.

"This bill provides immediate tax relief to the taxpayers who need it the most without sacrificing Massachusetts' ability to continue to meet other key priorities, like investing in Education Reform, health care initiatives and infrastructure needs," Keenan said.

Legislators from across the state have joined Keenan in support of this legislation, as well as Gubernatorial Candidate Scott Harshbarger.

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## Veterans' Corner...

by Ruth Bitzas  
Veterans' Agent

### What Is A Death Pension?

A death pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans. Who is eligible?

You may be eligible if:

\* The deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions; and...

\* He or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a war; and...

\* You are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran; and...

\* Your countable income is below a yearly limit set by law.

#### INCOME LIMITS (Effective January 1, 1998)

If you are a... Your yearly income must be less than...

Surviving spouse with no children .....\$5,808

Surviving spouse with one dependent .....\$7,607

(Add \$1,445 to the limit for each additional child)

Housebound with no dependents .....\$7,101

Housebound with one dependent .....\$8,895

Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance

(with no dependents) .....\$9,288

Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance

(with one dependent) .....\$11,082

Surviving child (no eligible parent) .....\$1,476

NOTE: Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example - welfare, some wages earned by dependent children, and SSI).

How much does VA pay? VA pays you the difference between your countable income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation. This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded out to the nearest dollar.

#### DISABILITY PENSION BENEFITS

What is a VA disability pension? A disability pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans who are no longer able to work.

Who is eligible? You may be eligible if:

\* You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions; and...

\* You served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a war; and...

\* You have disabilities that keep you from working a regular, full-time job; and...

\* Your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law.

#### FAMILY INCOME LIMITS (Effective December 1, 1996)

If you are a... Your yearly income must be less than...

Veteran with no dependents .....\$8,486

Veteran with a spouse and child .....\$11,115

(Veterans with additional children - add \$1,445 for each child)

Housebound veteran with no dependents .....\$10,373

Housebound veteran with one dependent .....\$13,001

Veteran who needs aid and attendance

(with no dependents) .....\$13,573

Veteran who needs aid and attendance

(with one dependent) .....\$16,201

NOTE: Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example - welfare, some wages by dependent children, and SSI).

#### PLEASE NOTE:

In earlier years, veterans who reached the age of 65, met the income eligibility requirements, and had wartime service, were eligible to apply for a disability pension.

During the recent mid-winter Veterans' Agents Conference, the Director of the VA Regional Office in Boston advised agents that the VA is taking a "second look" at possibly reverting back to eligibility for a VA pension at age 65.

A change such as this would open up eligibility to a substantive number of veterans who would be eligible to apply for the benefit. As soon as we receive further information, it will be provided in the "Veterans' Corner."

If you have any questions regarding any of the aforementioned information in this column, contact Veterans' Services at Agawam Town Hall, 786-0400, ext. 236/237.

## Tax Assistance Is Available At The Agawam Senior Center

The Agawam Senior Center announces that it will be offering tax assistance on Wednesday mornings through April 15th from 9:00 to 11:15 a.m.

To schedule an appointment, call the Center at 786-0400, ext. 242 or 243.

**Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12 noon.**

## Melconian Has Health Info For Seniors

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is firmly committed to providing elderly constituents with information about their health and assisted living needs. She has compiled a list of numbers that will benefit the senior citizens residing in her district.

The Department of Elder Affairs is an administrative organization responsible for the implementation of service programs designed specifically for the elderly. It provides general information, receives complaints, assists in nursing home placements, and responds to supplemental insurance questions. That number is 1-800-882-2003.

The Councils on Aging provide social and health services advocacy and information for elders at the local level. The following is a list of the local Council on Aging phone numbers: Agawam, 789-3838; Chicopee, 534-3698; Springfield, 787-6124; and West Springfield, 263-3265.

Other applicable service departments related to the care of senior citizens are the SHINE program

and the Greater Springfield Senior Services. SHINE is dedicated to the health insurance needs of the elderly. The local numbers are as follows: Agawam, 783-7650; Chicopee, 534-3698; Springfield, 827-7649; and West Springfield, 536-6804.

Greater Springfield Senior Services provide services such as case management for home base support, free nursing home screenings, as well as personal care and respite attendance. They can be reached at 781-8800.

All of these state services are available locally. Please do not hesitate to call or stop by Senator Melconian's District office. "My commitment to our seniors has never wavered and it is my pleasure to serve you and respond to your concerns. My staff and I are always available to assist you in any way we can. I encourage you to contact my district office whenever you may be in need of assistance."

Senator Melconian's office is located in Agawam at 375 Walnut Street Extension and the phone number is 786-6033.

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## — Agawam Obituaries —

### Mary J. Keenan

Mary Jane (Higgins) Keenan, 75, of 48 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was a 50-year real estate title examiner in Massachusetts and Florida, and retired from the Westfield law firm of Scharoff & Smith in 1985. She was an independent examiner in 1985-98.

Born in Palmetto, Florida, she lived there and in North Wilksboro, North Carolina, until 1962, when she moved to Agawam.

She attended North Wilksboro High School and a business school in Tampa, Florida.

She leaves a son, John Paschal of Tallahassee, Florida; a daughter, Alice Kielbasa of Feeding Hills; a brother, John O. Higgins of Palmetto; five grandchildren; and nephews and nieces.

The funeral and burial were in Palmetto, and Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the local arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

### Jacqueline Thornton

Jacqueline (Honiker) Thornton, 77, of 21 Line Street, Feeding Hills, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was an inspector at Buxton Leather Co. for 20 years, and lived in Feeding Hills from 1947.

She was a communicant of St. David's Episcopal Church, and a long-time member of its Altar Guild.

She also was a past worthy advisor of the Rainbow Girls in Springfield, and belonged to Golden Agers, Chapter 2.

Her husband, Walter C. Thornton, died in 1995.

She leaves a daughter, Joanne Vaughan of Cromwell, CT; a sister, Jean Taylor of West Springfield; her friend, Bill Lawor of Feeding Hills; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church memorial fund at 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

### Raymond W. Blakesley

Raymond W. Blakesley, 92, of 807 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, the 40-year office manager of Mobil Oil Co., died at Baystate Medical Center.

He retired in 1967.

Born in Westhampton, he was a graduate of the former Smith Agricultural School.

He moved to Springfield in 1958, to Florida in 1968, and back to Springfield in 1995.

He was a 60-year member of the South Congregational Church, a past member of the Esoteric Masonic Lodge, the York Rite Bodies of the Shriners, the Knights Templar, and the Melha

Shrine Temple, and sang with the former Orpheus Choral group.

His son, Donald Blakesley, died in 1992.

He leaves his wife, Edith M. (Downey) Blakesley; a daughter, Merle B. Olson of Feeding Hills; a sister, Marian Lemery of Westhampton, MA; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the church, with the burial at the convenience of the family. A Masonic service was held at Agawam Funeral Home, which was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105, or the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

### Genevieve C. Tourville

Genevieve C. (Parker) Tourville, 97, formerly of Pleasant Street, Parishville, New York, died at her daughter's home in Winter Haven, Florida.

She was a sales clerk at Pool's Department Store, and retired in 1955.

Born in New York State, she was a long-time resident of Agawam before moving to Parishville several years ago.

She was a former communicant of St. Theresa's Church in Agawam, and a member of St. Ann's Sodality.

She also belonged to the Agawam Council on Aging and the Senior Center.

Her husband, Clarence Tourville, died in 1954.

She leaves a son, Clarence of Parishville; a daughter, Doris Nolin of Winter Haven; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held Friday morning, February 27th, at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church in Agawam, with burial at St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

The calling hours will be held in the afternoon and evening on Thursday, February 26th.

### Agnes Kopcinski

Agnes (Ciempa) Kopcinski, 88, of 16 Ward Lane, Westboro, and formerly of Springfield and Agawam, died in a health care center after an illness.

She was a long-time assembler at Milton Bradley Toy Co. of Springfield and East Longmeadow.

Born in Springfield, she lived in Agawam and Springfield before moving to Westboro seven years ago.

She worshipped at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Springfield.

Her husband, William Kopcinski, died in 1990. She leaves two daughters, Sally A. Wood of Westboro, and Frances M. Taylor of Longmeadow; three brothers, Edward Stepanik and Richard Stepanik of Agawam, and Henry Stepanik of Thornton, Colorado; three sisters, Jane Kobylinski of Chelmsford, Loretta Dawson of Springfield, and Rose Osolinski of Ludlow; a grandson; and nephews and nieces.

The Mass was held at the church, with the burial at St. Stanislaus's Cemetery in Chicopee. Britton-Summers Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church memorial fund at 28 Underwood Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

### George Draghetti

George Draghetti, 70, of 45 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was the 40-year owner of G.D. Plumbing & Heating Co., and retired in 1990.

He was a town plumbing inspector in 1961-90, and held a master plumber's license.

A lifelong resident, he was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church, and an Army Korean War veteran. He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

He was a town meeting member, a former call firefighter, and a former member of the Lions Club.

He leaves his wife, Irene (Dymerski) Draghetti; a son, Steven G. of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Joanne G. Draghetti of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire; two sisters, Alice Smith of Feeding Hills, and Patricia Jones of Michigan; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fire Department Ambulance Fund, 800 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

SEE OBITUARIES -  
Page 11...

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## Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

### If Your Clothing Catches Fire, STOP, DROP, AND ROLL!!!

All clothing can burn, and some clothing burns more easily than others. The Agawam Fire Department recommends that if your clothing catches fire, STOP, DROP, AND ROLL to put out the flames.

Don't run or keep standing. Running will only fan the flames and make them higher. Standing up straight will make the fire burn faster.

STOP AND DROP down to the floor or ground. ROLL or rock back and forth to smother the flames. Smothering the fire cuts off its supply of oxygen so it cannot burn.

If possible, rock or roll in a rug, blanket, or coat to smother the fire faster. Attempt to cover your face with your hands to keep the fire away from your face.

When the fire is out, cool the burn with water

and call the fire department or rescue squad at 911. Do not remove the burned clothing if it is stuck to the skin. Keep the victim quiet and warm until help arrives.

The fatal mistake people make in a clothing fire is to panic and run. Seconds count. The smothering action must be automatic. A trained, immediate response of STOP, DROP, AND ROLL is extremely important.

The running response occurs in all age groups, but it is prevalent in younger children. Scared children run to find parents or mistakenly think that only water can put out a fire and they run to find it. Everyone, especially children, must be taught to STOP, DROP, AND ROLL.

Parents and teachers should encourage children to practice by making a weekly game of it. Make sure that they understand when and

where to use this technique.

Most clothing fires are careless accidents and can be prevented. Follow these simple rules:

- Purchase clothing made with a smooth, tight weave. Fully, lightweight, loosely woven, or loose-fitting fabric will ignite and burn much easier.

- Use caution when using or working with any heat sources or flames.

- By law, children's sleepwear must be flame-retardant at time of purchase (available in sizes up to 6X). However, the washing and care instructions must be followed to maintain the fire-retardant feature.

- Keep children away from heat sources such as candles, stoves, cigarettes, outdoor grills, matches, portable heaters, etc.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

#### OBITUARIES - from Page 10...

##### Edward J. Morytko

Edward J. Morytko, 78, of 18b Castle Hills Road, Agawam, died at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

A 45-year building materials sales representative, he was associated with lumber companies in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

He was the manager of Gateway Hardware Co., Springfield Building Supply Co., Home Lumber Co., Valentine Lumber Co., Connecticut Lumber Co. in Waterbury, CT, Windsor Locks Lumber Co., and Lumberjack Stores Inc., from which he retired in 1988.

He was a World War II Navy veteran, and served in the South Pacific.

Born in Westfield, he was schooled in Waterbury. He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

He was an entertainment director of USO (United Service Organizations), and belonged to Golden Agers Chapter II, American Legion Post 185, the Disabled American Veterans, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and the West Springfield Knights of Columbus.

He leaves his wife of 53 years, the former Alice I. Daigle; a son, Kenneth L. of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Nancy Murray of West Springfield; a brother, Robert of Wolcott, CT; four sisters, Jean Zaparka of Union City, CT, Adeline Chrostowski of Waterbury, Julie Rama of Bristol, CT, and Ceil Morytko of Waterbury; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church building fund at 833 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001, or the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

##### Justin E. Wilke, Jr.

Justin E. Wilke, Jr., 73, of Hudson, Florida, and formerly of West Suffield, CT, died in Hudson recently.

He was a 28-year employee of Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies Corp. in Windsor Locks, CT.

He was born in Agawam and lived in West Suffield before moving to Florida 18 years ago.

He was a 1943 graduate of Agawam High School, and an Army veteran of the Korean War.

He received the Purple Heart, and was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8681 in Shady Hills.

He leaves his wife, Eleanor (Boyko) Wilke; two sons, Edwin Phelon of West Suffield, and Daniel Phelon of Suffield; and two grandsons.

The funeral was held at Nicholson & Carmen Funeral Home and St. Joseph's Church, both in Suffield, with the burial in West Suffield Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

## Financial Aid Info & Resources Available At Rep. Keenan's Office

Financial aid information for college-bound students and their families is available at State Rep. Dan Keenan's district office. Resources and information that may be obtained include a Financial Aid Packet from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA), the 1997-1998 Admissions and Financial Aid at Independent Colleges in Massachusetts Handbook, and the New England Regional Student Program guide.

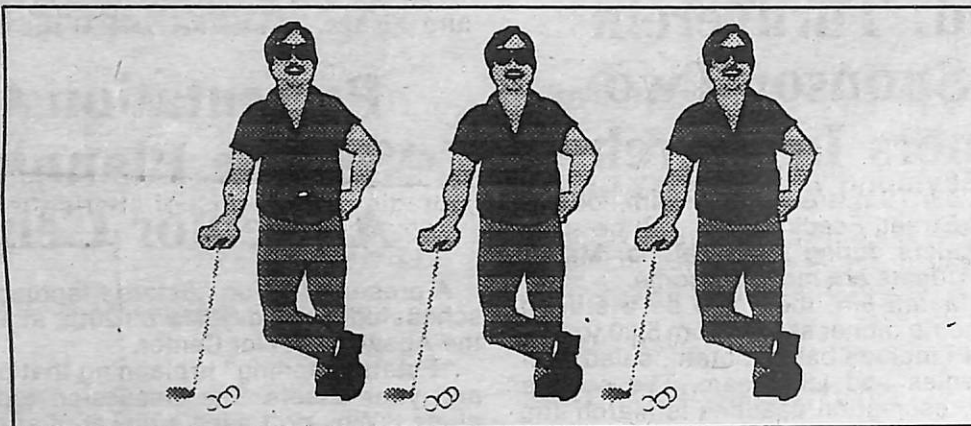
Please contact Rep. Keenan's district office, 786-4545, to obtain copies of the financial aid resources. Anyone with questions regarding the financial aid process may call MEFA at (617) 261-9760.

## NovaCare Outpatient Rehabilitation & Fitness First Present...

### GOLF 98

Promotional Items / Raffle / Door Prizes

Open To The Public



#### Location:

Fitness First Health Club in Feeding Hills  
at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd

Free limited seating. Call: 786-1460

#### Featured Speakers:

Dr. John Corsetti, MD - New England Orthopedic Surgeons  
Common Injury and Prevention

Mr. Jim Vernadakis BS, PTA - NovaCare Outpatient Rehabilitation  
Specific Stretching & Flexibility

Ms. Barbara Vinciguerra MS - General Manager of Fitness First  
"Swing Easy, Hit Hard"

Mr. Daril Pacinella - Head Pro Wilbraham Country Club  
Swing Tips

Ms. Cindy Johnson "Nevada Bobs" - Latest Equipment Developments

#### Raffle Prizes for Golf Clinic March 3rd!!!

1. Foursome of golf with cart at SHAKER FARMS COUNTRY CLUB...
2. 2 Rounds of Golf at Fenway's Pine Knoll Executive PAR 3...
3. Two gift certificates for 2 rounds of golf with cart at AGAWAM MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE...
4. Twenty Five dollar gift certificate to A.G. GOLF CLUB...
5. Foursome of golf with cart at ST. ANNE COUNTRY CLUB...
6. Jumbo bucket of balls for TEKOA'S "GOLF DOME"...
7. PLUS MANY MORE GREAT GOLF SUPPLIES!!!!!!!

(Sign-up sheet at front desk!!!!!!)(TELL A FRIEND!!!)





## Families

### Contributions Sought By "Friends" Of The Capt. Leonard House

February is "Friends of the Captain Charles Leonard House Month." Once a year, the Board of Trustees invites all residents, social groups, and businesses to become a "Friend" by donating a gift in any amount to help with the upkeep of Agawam's most historic building.

The Captain Charles Leonard House is a fine example of a spacious Georgian Home. This two-story structure was built by Captain Charles Leonard in 1805 and it is believed to have been designed by the famed local architect, Benjamin Asher.

The house was originally built as a stage coach tavern, and was the first overnight stop on the road from Hartford to points north. The original tavern stage door entrance still remains intact. Three of the rooms still have their own fireplaces with the original hearthstones, still in working order today. The wide entrance hall and upstairs hall were used for dancing.

At the far end of the entrance hall is the Pine Room, added in 1938. This room is used by the public for many various functions. This summer, the Pine Room will be completely redone to make it look more like the Georgian Period home it belongs to. The room will be a formal meeting room as it would have appeared in the early 1800's.

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Donors' names will be recorded in the "Friends" record book, kept in the front hallway of the Leonard House for all to see.

### Spfld. Turnverein To Sponsor Two Dinners In March

The Springfield Turnverein of Agawam, located at 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, will be sponsoring two dinners during the month of March. Members and guests are most welcome.

On Friday, March 6th, there will be a stuffed shrimp or prime rib dinner served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will include baked potato, salad, coffee, and brownies and ice cream. The cost is \$8.50, and the reservation deadline is March 4th. Please call the club at 786-0924 for reservations.

On Saturday, March 21st, there will be a pasta and chicken dinner sponsored by the Wednesday and Thursday bowlers of the club. The price is \$7 for adults, and \$3.50 for children under 12 years of age. The serving time will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., and the reservation deadline is March 18th. Please call the club at 786-0924 to reserve your tickets or for more information.

## ADVERTISER NEWS

*Travel Magic*

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**Princess Pizazz Inclusive** from **\$518\***  
3 Nts/Flts, Meals/Drinks, Shows & More!

**Golfers**

Unlimited greens fees on two USGA-rated par 72 courses; shared cart (1 round); steward gratuities; club cleaning & storage!

Add **\$65** per day

**Mar 9, 23 & 30**

**3 Nights & Flights**

from **\$319\***

Grand Bahama Island

Call For Details!!

786-1801

### Kevin Noonan Speaks At UNICO Meeting...



**AGAWAM UNICO MEMBERS** Rich Morassi (Past President) and Dennis Marchetto (Chairman - Mental Health) welcomed Kevin Noonan (far right) of the Springfield Open Pantry at UNICO's February meeting. Noonan talked about the Open Pantry's services, including the Loaves and Fishes program, and UNICO presented a donation to him for Loaves and Fishes. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

### Presentation On "Estate Planning" At Senior Center

A presentation on "Estate Planning" has been scheduled for Friday, March 20th, at 12:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

"Estate Planning" is planning that protects you and your assets. The discussion topics will include, "Why do I need a power-of-attorney document, health care proxy, and a will?", and, "What should I be doing before I enter a nursing home?"

These and other questions will be answered by Attorney Anthony Bonavita.

### Free Seminar To Deal With Medicaid And Other Issues

The public is cordially invited to a free seminar on estate, Medicaid, and funeral planning for the next decade scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th.

Hosted by Country Estates of Agawam, 1200 Suffield St., Agawam, the seminar will be presented by Attorney Teryl A. Deegan, and Caskets Direct to You.

**PARTHENON**



## Restaurant Pizzeria

835 Suffield Street Agawam

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

**786-7941**

### Early Bird Specials

3:00 To 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday

Order Any Two Off "Special Board" Dinners, Receive \$3.00 Off

(Dine In Only)

(Not In Conjunction With Any Other Coupons)

Monday  
through Thursday

Rib Eye Steak  
Chicken Scampi  
Scallops Fra Diavolo

**\$9.95**

(Not In Conjunction With Any Other Coupons)

### Daily Lunch Specials & Dinners

Finest Selection Of Beers, Wines, & Cordials

Open 7 Days — 11 A.M. To 10 P.M.

Fine Selection Of Desserts

Fine American/Italian Cuisine

Every Tuesday

**Half-Price Pizza**

**Buy 1, Get 2nd**

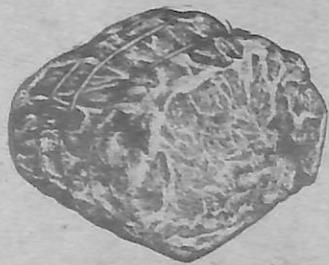
**At Half Price Plus \$1**

(Not In Conjunction With Any Other Coupons)

Must Present Coupon — Expires 3/31/98



# AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET



## USDA CHOICE

Boneless Sirloin Steak	\$2.99 Lb.
Boneless Spoon Roast	\$2.89 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.69 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Cutlets	\$2.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Pork	\$1.69 Lb.
Zonin Italian Sausage (Hot Or Sweet)	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round 5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck 5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Old-Fashioned, Barrel-Cured Brisket Corned Beef (Flat Cut)	\$2.49 Lb.
Store Made Corned Spare Ribs	\$2.39 Lb.
Grade "A" Chicken Breast Whole	\$1.19 Lb.
Split	\$1.39 Lb.
Whole Butt Tenderloins (Cut To Order)	\$4.99 Lb.
Whole Boneless Sirloins (Cut To Order)	\$1.99 Lb.
Frozen Ground Turkey	79¢ Lb.
Store Made Meat Loaves (Ready To Eat)	\$3.50 Each

## Tuesday & Wednesday SPECIALS

Land O' Lakes  
White American  
Cheese

(Whole Unsliced 5 Lb. Loaf)

**\$9.99**

(Sliced - \$1.00 Extra)

## Holiday Greeting Cards

St. Patrick's Day  
April Fool's Day  
Easter Sunday

**Buy 1, Get 1 FREE**

(Higher Price Prevails)

\*\*\*

**Lays Potato Chips**

(Assorted Varieties)

**88¢ A Bag**

## DELI

Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.29 Lb.
Russer Virginia Baked Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99 Lb.
Cara Donna Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Store Made Rare Roast Beef	\$4.99 Lb.
Weaver Chicken Roll	\$2.39 Lb.
Hoffman Super Sharp Cheese	\$3.99 Lb.
Fresh Seafood Salad	\$3.99 Lb.



## SEAFOOD

Scrod Fillet	\$2.99 Lb.
Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$9.99

## PRODUCE

Bananas	39¢ Lb.
Cantaloupes	\$1.19 Each
California Navel Oranges (Jumbo Size)	49¢ Each
Russett Baking Potatoes (5 Lb. Bag)	\$1.19
Extra Large Stuffing	
Peppers	99¢ Lb.
Fresh California Asparagus	\$1.99 Lb.

## FROZEN & DAIRY

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19
Hood Chocolate Milk (½ Gallon)	\$1.39
Hood 2% Low Fat Milk (½ Gallon)	\$1.19
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢
Tropicana 100% Pure Orange Juice (½ Gallon)	\$1.99

## PLAY YOUR MEGABUCKS HERE

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Prices Effective

Mon., March 2nd — Sat., March 7th

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768 Main St. Agawam

**786-7476**

Open  
Sundays  
8-5

**Jumbo Grinders  
(All Varieties)**

**\$3.50**

**With Free 12 Oz.  
Can Of Soda**



## Thank You, Berkshire Power!



BERKSHIRE POWER recently made a \$1,500 donation on behalf of the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum. From left to right: Frank Basile, project manager for Berkshire Power; Joann McGeoghan, local representative for Berkshire Power; Carol Miller, assistant treasurer for the Agawam Historical Association; and Mayor Christopher C. Johnson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## You're Never Too Old...



FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS surprised Donna Leger (above) on the occasion of her 40th birthday this month at McDonald's on Suffield Street in Agawam. Donna is the accounting manager at Riverside Park and a very loyal customer of this particular eating establishment. Her sometimes twice-daily trips through the drive-thru have made her well-known to the "morning crew" at McDonald's. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Agawam Senior Center Is Hosting Trip To "Spring Flower Show"

The Agawam Senior Center will host a trip to Keene, New Hampshire to attend the "Breath of Spring Flower Show" on Monday, March 23rd from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Agawam Senior Center at 786-0400, ext 242.

*Remember — our deadline is each Tuesday at noon!*

**Great Food  
Late At Night!**

Only

**Michael's Cafe**

525 Springfield Street  
Feeding Hills

*Is Open Until*

*3:00 A.M. On*

*Fridays And Saturdays*

**Breakfast Served All Day!  
New York Style  
Deli Sandwiches!**

**Regular Hours:**

**Tuesday Thru Thursday, 7 A.M. - 8 P.M.**

**Friday And Saturday, 7 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

**Sunday, 7 A.M. - 1 P.M.**



## Miss Marjorie Ward To Celebrate Her 100th Birthday On March 2nd

Miss Marjorie Ward, who taught history in Agawam for 41 years, will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 2, 1998.

Miss Ward retired in 1963, but continues to be a historian when it comes to her former students. She has a phenomenal memory, recalling most of her students' names and even where they sat in her class!

Miss Ward is still the sweet, gracious lady that she always was. It would be wonderful if we could honor this grand lady and teacher by filling her 100th birthday with hundreds of happy birthdays and congratulations and becoming a centenarian!

Congratulations can be sent to Miss Marjorie Ward, Heritage Hall North Nursing Home, 55 Cooper St., Agawam, MA 01001.

**\* NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, 9:00 AM - NOON \***  
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**Rejean J. Remillard Insurance Agency**

at the Crossroads Shoppes  
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Commercial Liability**





ANGELA WELSH &amp; ALLAN POROWSKI

## Angela Welsh & Allan Porowski To Wed In Oct. 1998

Walter and Cynthia Porowski of Agawam are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Allan Porowski, to Angela Welsh of Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania.

The bride-to-be graduated from Lock Haven University in 1993 with a B.A. in International Relations and from American University in 1996 with an M.A. in International Affairs. She is currently employed as an economic researcher at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington, D.C.

The future groom, a 1990 graduate of Agawam High School, graduated from Cornell University in 1994 with a B.S. in Policy Analysis and from American University in 1996 with an M.P.A. in Public Administration. He is currently employed as a research associate for Caliber Associates in Fairfax, Virginia.

An October 1998 wedding is planned in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania.

## Benefit Dance Sponsored By Larson Foundation

The Annual Benefit Dance to Assist Survivors of Homicide, sponsored by the Daniel A. Larson Foundation, will be held at Adelphia's Restaurant on Route 202 in South Hadley on Saturday, March 7th, from 7:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight.

Entertainment will be provided by Ross "The Boss" McDonald from Rock 102 and Blue Moon Productions. Admission is \$10 per person and includes hot hors-d'oeuvres, snacks, and desserts.

Tickets will be available at the door, or may be purchased in advance by calling Chuck & Nancy Larson, 532-4604; George & Lois Anne Maharne, 782-9153; or George & Dee Ziegert, 786-9443.

Any individual or area business who would like to make item or gift certificate donations to be used as raffle prizes at the benefit, or donations of baked goods or other food items, should contact the Larsons, the Maharnes, or the Ziegerts at the above telephone numbers.

## Think it's expensive?

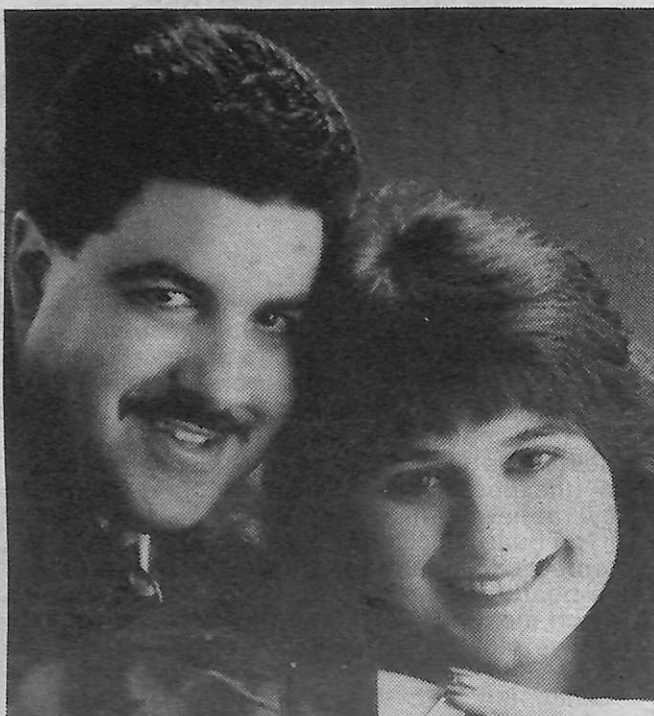
FREE ESTIMATES ON...

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Think again.

DESIGN • BUILD •  
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ENTERPRISES  
AGAWAM • MA  
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TERESA MARTONE &amp; STEPHEN KALLIPOLITES

## Teresa Martone Engaged To Wed Stephen Kallipolites

Rev. Mr. & Mrs. James Martone of Agawam would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Teresa Martone, to Stephen Kallipolites, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Kallipolites of Harwich, MA.

Teresa is a 1987 graduate of Agawam High School. She graduated from Westfield State College in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and in 1994 with a Master's in Special Education. Teresa is a kindergarten teacher at Meadow Brook School in East Longmeadow.

Stephen is a 1988 graduate of Agawam High School. He graduated from the University of Hartford in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. He is currently program director of Cox Radio Inc.'s "STAR 99.9" (WEZN FM) in Fairfield County, CT.

An October 10, 1998 wedding is planned.



RENEE L. BELZ &amp; ERIC W. ROSE

## Renee Leigh Belz & Eric William Rose Announce Engagement

Mrs. Crystal Freund of Osage, Iowa and Mr. Dennis Belz of Indianapolis, Indiana are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Renee Leigh Belz, to Eric William Rose, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Rose of Feeding Hills.

Miss Belz is also the stepdaughter of Mrs. Linda Belz of Indiana and Mr. Dennis Freund of Iowa. The bride-to-be is a 1997 graduate of the University of Iowa and is currently a pharmacy practice resident at Clarian Health System in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The groom-to-be is a 1990 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1997 graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and is currently a pharmacy practice resident at Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

A September 1998 wedding is planned.

## AMERICAN ★★ CLASSICS ★★ Restaurant & Takeout

### IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT

Dinner Served 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Extra Plate Charge \$1.00

16 oz. Porterhouse steak	\$9.95
Baked stuffed shrimp	\$9.95
Baked stuffed scrod	\$8.95
Veal parmesan	\$9.95
Chicken parmesan	\$8.95
Baked stuffed shells parmesan	\$8.95
Poached salmon	\$8.95
(served with soup or salad and choice of french fries, mashed potatoes, or vegetable)	
Fried scallops	\$9.95
Fried shrimp	\$9.95
Fish and chips	\$7.95
(served with soup or salad, cole slaw, and french fries)	
Ziti and meatballs	\$7.95
Veal cacciatore over spaghetti	\$8.95
Mussels over linguini	\$7.95
(served with soup or salad and roll)	
Caesar salad	\$3.95
Grilled chicken Caesar salad	\$5.95
Grilled chicken on a water roll with lettuce and tomato	\$5.95
(served with french fries)	

**JUST FOR KIDS** (under 12 years old)  
Grilled cheese with tomato and french fries .....\$3.95  
Hot dog and french fries .....\$2.50

### BEVERAGES

Fountain drinks	reg. 80¢ / lg. 95¢
Coffee	90¢
Tea	75¢
Herbal tea	85¢
Milk	reg. 85¢ / lg. \$1.05
Chocolate milk	reg. 95¢ / lg. \$1.15

### APPETIZERS

Cheese bread	\$3.95
Buffalo wings	\$3.95
Cheese sticks	\$3.95
Poppers	\$3.95

740 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills  
789-2203





MEGHAN CHRISTINA D'AMOURS

## D'Amours Announce Birth Of Daughter, Meghan Christina

Alan and Diane D'Amours are happy to announce the birth of their third child, Meghan Christina D'Amours.

Meghan was born October 14, 1997 at 7:41 p.m. at the Mercy Family Life Center. She weighed eight pounds, seven ounces, and was 21 inches long.

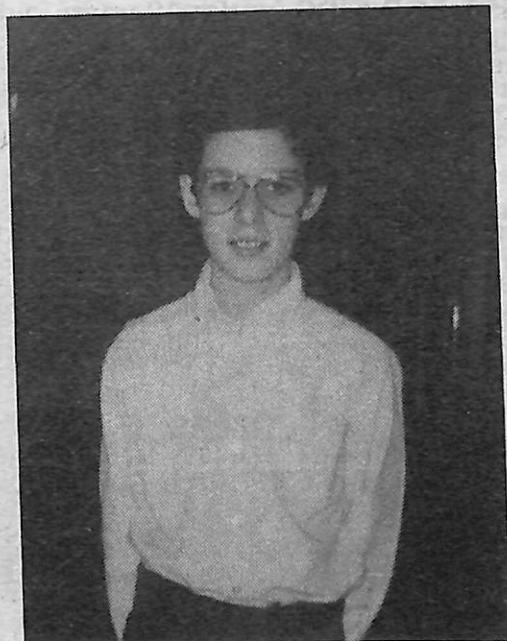
Big brothers Derek, 8, and Nicholas, 3, waited for Meghan's welcome home.

The maternal grandparents are Louis DeChristopher and Donna DeChristopher. Meghan's paternal grandparents are Shirley Shea and the late Albert D'Amours.

Gina Hodovanec is the baby's godmother, and Kenney and Gary D'Amours are her godfathers.

Check our classified ads...

## Happy 26th Birthday, Eric



Love,  
Lindsay, Eric, & Mark

## Agawam Garden Club's Executive Board Schedules 1998 Programs And Projects

by Peggy Shoemaker  
Advertiser News Feature Writer

With winter waning and spring around the corner, the Agawam Garden Club Executive Board has been meeting to plan club programs and projects for its March/November club year.

President Barbara Pemberton announced that the club policy started last year of allowing guests to attend programs at a \$1 fee resulted in an unexpected number of visitors from which several new members joined the club.

The board decided to have name pins made for members to wear at club functions. Members of the board expect to be sporting their pins at the March meeting, when members can order the attractive pins emblazoned with a flower next to the name.

Accepted with regret was the resignation of vice president Janice Reynolds and a vice president will be elected at the March meeting to complete her term for this year.

In addition to Mrs. Pemberton, other board members are Ann Bradford, secretary; Terry Angotti, treasurer; and Peggy Shoemaker, publicity.

The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (March to November) at the Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street, unless otherwise announced. The club is seeking a meeting site for July as the Leonard House will be closed for renovations.

Committee chairpersons for the coming year are Pauline L. Mortenson and Joe Dubio, Nature; Judy Clini, Literature; Joanne Hagan and Joan Perez, Conservation; Linda Lewis and Nancy Smith, Hospitality; Rosalyn Shepard, Friendship.

Wesley Bradford will be chairman of the Telephone Committee consisting of Lillian Latimer, Pauline J. Mortenson, Rose Ayotte, Barbara Zygonowski, Lillian Latimer, Sonja Norris, Barbara Ouimet, Vivian Provost, and Susan Strycharz.

Programs to follow the monthly meeting will be: **March 10th:** Charlotte Salborski of Feeding Hills, discussing "A Three Generation Garden";

**April 14th:** Landscape Architect Nancy Denig of Northampton with a slide presentation entitled "View From the Window";

**May 12th:** Club member Ron Kujawski on "Organic Gardening - Vegetables and Companion Planting";

**June 9th:** Kathleen Morehead, photographer, traveler, and gardener with a slide presentation on "Mini and Maxi English Gardens";

**July 14th:** Workshop meeting directed by Dennis Picard of Storowton Colonial Village on corn husk and apple head dolls;

**August 11th:** The annual club picnic to be held at the home of Ann Bradford on Oxford Street.

Fall programs include a presentation on **September 8th** by Bob Whitney of Springfield's Root Cellar of flower arrangements, and a raffle; an **October 13th** presentation by tree surgeon Erik Haympt of Sheffield on "Pruning, Planting, and Placement of Trees;" and on **November 10th**, the annual banquet with a program by the Audobon Society on "Wildflowers of Southern New England."

Trips in the planning are: **April 21st:** a tour of the greenhouses at Springfield Technical Community College with Professor Barbara Schaedler; **June 13th:** a trip to Hildene, Vermont to the home of Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln, Equinox Nursery, and a garden and bird shop called "Wildbird"; **August 30th:** a trip to John Adams Gladioli Farm in Suffield.

The club's special projects include a public plant sale on the grounds of the Captain Leonard House on **May 16th**; awarding of a scholarship to a high school student planning to study horticulture or a related field; making crafts to decorate a part of Storowton Colonial Village for a Yuletide festival; making holiday wreaths for the Captain Leonard House; and maintaining Alice's Garden at the Leonard House.

## West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry Is Preparing For Easter Season Events

The West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry is getting ready for its Easter events. The Open Pantry gave out over 300 Easter baskets to underprivileged families with children last year.

This year, it is anticipated that at least the same amount of Easter baskets will be distributed on April 6th and 7th.

The Easter egg hunt will be held at the Alice B. Corson playground in West Springfield on April 11th. The Open Pantry is in need of donations of

plastic Easter eggs, Easter baskets, chocolate Easter rabbits, jelly beans, Easter candy, crayons, coloring books, small stuffed animals, small toys, small infant toys, and Easter grass.

If you would like to volunteer your time, please call Rose at the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry at 734-7969. If you would like to donate any of these items, Open Pantry hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Wednesday evenings, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

All donations would be appreciated by April 1st.



## Agawam Federal Credit Union

### Great Rates On Car Loans

For Limited Time

New  
Car

7.00% APR \*  
7.25% APR \*  
7.50% APR \*

36 Months  
48 Months  
60 Months

\* Annual Percentage Rate 10% Down

Used  
Car

7.75% APR \*  
8.00% APR \*

36 Months  
48 Months

\* Annual Percentage Rate NADA Loan Value

4 Washington Avenue Extension, Agawam



786-2100

Mon. - Tues. - Wed. 9-4  
Thurs. - Fri. 9-5

Open To All Who Live Or Work In Agawam





## Agawam Golden Age Club's (Chapter 1) Calendar For March

**Friday, March 6th:** Board of Directors' meeting at the Senior Center at 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11th:** Meeting (afternoon program will be Gift Bingo).

**Monday, March 16th:** Trip - "St. Patrick's" at White's in Westport.

**Wednesday, March 25th:** Meeting. The speaker will be Dr. Mary Gina Trevisana and Associates from Bay State Eye Care.

(New members are welcome. See Helen Rogers for renewing your 1998 membership. She is still selling the Budget Books for those that like to save money when eating out or entertaining, etc.)

## March Events For Agawam Golden Age Club, Chapter 2

**March 4th:** Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Entertainment - foreign exchange students.

**March 17th:** Bus trip to Davenport, MA. Dinner and show ("Singing Sisters").

**March 18th:** Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Entertainment - musical group called Old Rubber Band from Connecticut.

**March 27th:** Board of Directors' meeting at 1:00 p.m.

(Tickets will be on sale at the March meeting for the installation banquet which will be held April 1st at The Oaks, Agawam.)

## Discussion On "Intergenerational Living" At Senior Ctr.

A program on "The Joys and Pitfalls of Intergenerational Living" will take place at the Agawam Senior Center on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 12:30 p.m.

Join us for an hour of stories and a discussion with Gail Finger, a wife and working mother of three boys whose parents live with her in an attached echo in-law apartment.

*Best local news...*

*best  
local  
news*

Richard W. Gallerani, OD  
Julianne Rapalus Gallerani, OD

## Agawam Eye Associates

## Complete Family Eye Care



- Contact Lenses
- Pediatric and Geriatric Eye Care
- Full-service Dispensary with Frames Available
- Accepting Health New England, HMOBlue, Medicare and most other insurances

656 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills

**789-2106**

## Agawam Library To Showcase Work Of Pioneer Valley Quilters

The Agawam Public Library is presenting the quilts of the Pioneer Valley Quilters in the gallery showcases for the month of March.

The Pioneer Valley Quilters was established by several area quilt enthusiasts to further interest in quilting and to form an organization which would enable other quilters and quilt lovers to meet, share ideas, and learn from each other as well as from professional quilters.

The guild contributes completed quilts, through their ongoing "Quilts From the Heart" project, to local area organizations. The guild received a special award from the Pioneer Valley Nurse Association in June 1996, for its ongoing contributions to their clients.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., September through June, at the Agawam Baptist Church, 760 Main Street, Agawam. Anyone with an interest in quilts and quilting is invited to join. Skill level is not a criteria for joining, just the enjoyment of quilts.

Hours for viewing are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## Amber Conte Of AHS To Receive Award At DAR's Special Meeting

The 1998 Good Citizen Winners, as sponsored by Mercy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will be recognized at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd.

This event, the highlight of the Chapter's year, will meet at the Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield. A light lunch served at 12:15 p.m. will precede the meeting.

Among winners to be honored will be Amber Conte, representing Agawam High School.

These students were chosen by their faculty and senior class members of each of their 20 respective local high schools. They will receive a certificate and a medal.

The 20 student winners then submitted an essay and personal credentials to a board of independent judges and the winner from this group receives a \$100 savings bond and his or her essay is forwarded to state level competition.

Mrs. Robert Prater, DAR Regent, and Mrs. David R. Cahill, Vice Regent and Chairman of the Good Citizens Program, will conduct the meeting and make the awards.

*Check our classified pages*

## Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

**Monday, March 2nd:** Pork cuilet with gravy and mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, fresh pear.

**Tuesday, March 3rd:** Birthday celebration — chicken leg, sweet potato, broccoli and cauliflower, rye bread, cake.

**Wednesday, March 4th:** Roast turkey, stuffing with gravy, butternut squash, rudi roll, peach cobbler.

**Thursday, March 5th:** Minestrone soup, meatball grinder, tossed salad, mixed fruit.

**Friday, March 6th:** Baked macaroni and cheese, apple juice, stewed tomatoes, rye bread, canned peaches.

## Junior Women's Club Seeks Crafters For June 6th Crafts Fair

The Agawam Junior Women's Club 24th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 1998 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Fair will be held on the grounds of the Captain Charles Leonard House at 663 Main Street in Agawam. Many artisans and crafters from surrounding communities and states will feature a wide variety of quality arts and crafts. The show will be juried and feature approximately 80-100 exhibitors.

Admission is free and all proceeds benefit the AJWC Scholarship Fund. Tours of the historic Captain Charles Leonard House will be available. A Youth Art Exhibit will be on display as well.

The size of each space will be 12' x 12' and a \$45 showing fee will be due at time of application. A food concession will also be available during the day for your convenience.

For more information or an application, please call Paula at 786-0511 or Margaret at 786-2651.

\* \* \*

*Why not surprise your "loved one" with a birthday ad? They cost just \$30, so bring in yours today - AAN!*

\* \* \*



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Your loved ones may make more than 120 decisions related to your funeral—most in the first 24 hours after your death. Fortunately, there's a way to avoid adding to their burden of grief. It's called preplanning, and with Curran-Jones & Family Considerations®, it's a simple process you can do today.

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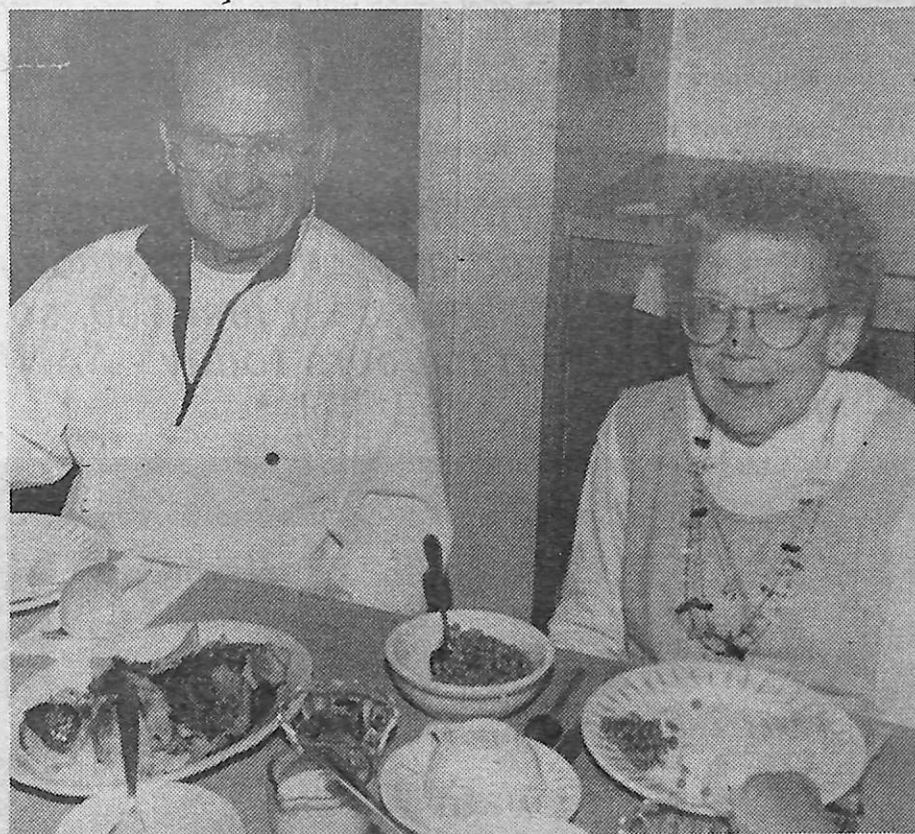


# Church News

## Ham & Bean Supper At United Methodist Church...



THE AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH held a Ham & Bean Supper on Saturday, February 21st. IN TOP PHOTO, members of the kitchen crew included Karl Bernier, Harold Riddle, and Chieko Rivers. IN PHOTO BELOW - Bill & Doris Ainey are about to enjoy their meal. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



ATTENDING THE ANNUAL HAM & BEAN SUPPER at the Agawam United Methodist Church were Michael Rodriguez, Brian Farr, and Steven Cruz. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

### Nocturnal Adoration To Meet March 6th At Sacred Heart

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday, March 6th from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

### PERSONAL

#### PRAY 9 HAIL MARY'S FOR 9 DAYS

Request 3 wishes, 1 business and 2 impossible. On the 9th day, publish this article and your wishes will be answered even if you don't believe.

C.J.J.

— Check our classified ads each week —



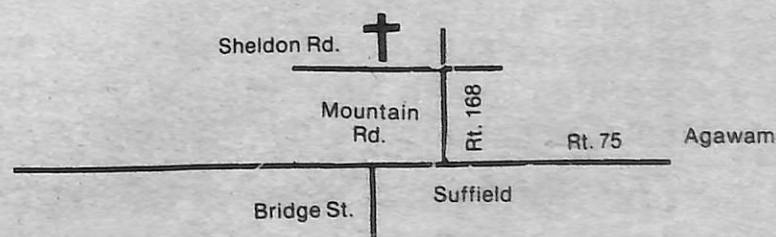
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Reverend Peter Monahan  
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## Church News - continued...



## Reflections...

submitted by  
**Rev. Peter Monahan**  
 Pastor of the Church  
 of the Apostles,  
 Suffield, CT  
 (860) 668-4444 or  
 (413) 786-8735

## Resisting Temptation

The season of Lent focuses some people's attention on the subject of temptation, and resisting it. Some people deny themselves a particular worldly pleasure, such as a favorite food, during the Lenten Season.

The Bible tells us that no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. It should be comforting to all to know that God knows all about our lives, and stands ready to help us if we want Him to.

Without a doubt, the temptations we face are too numerous to even briefly mention. Among the greatest, however, are three: the temptation to live only for this life apart from God's grace, the temptation to meet one's goals apart from God's grace, and the temptation to be religious apart from God's grace. For our benefit, Jesus Christ has conquered all three of these temptations.

The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." One of the devil's goals for anybody, even the Son of God, is to shift a person's focus away from what's really important to what is only temporal. If the devil tried to tempt even Jesus this way, should any of us presume he won't attempt the same thing with each of us? Jesus conquered the tempta-

tation by keeping in mind what is truly important. "Man shall not live by bread alone."

In one of his many attempts to persuade Jesus to forsake the way of the cross, the devil tried to convince Jesus to accomplish His goals by an alternate means. The devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it shall be Yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him alone shall you serve." Jesus looked beyond the immediate and focused on the important. The Bible says that Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The last temptation of this series was the temptation to be religious apart from God's grace. "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge of you, to guard you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

The devil even went so far as to quote the Scripture, taking a phrase from Psalm 91 out of context and misapplying it, to try to tempt Jesus to perform what might appear to be a religious act. Jesus didn't fall for the devil's temptation to be religious apart from God's grace, and neither should we. There is no way we can ever be good enough for God, and there is no need to even try. All God asks of us is to acknowledge our need of a savior, and to trust Him for His provision.

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.

## Worship & Prayer Opportunities At St. David's Church Each Day

### PRAYER MONDAYS - 6:45 P.M.

Join us for 45 minutes of prayer.

Evening Prayer is said weekly at 6:45 p.m., led by our Layreaders during Lent, and is followed by The Morning Prayer Meeting, using the Lord's Prayer as an outline for a half hour of intercession.

Please join us at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield Street (next to the Police Station), Feeding Hills — 786-6133.

### HEALING THURSDAYS - MARCH 5TH & APRIL 2ND

Join us at 7:00 p.m. these Thursdays as we draw upon the Healing Presence of our Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.

These services consist of singing, prayer, a message from the Scriptures, and time after the service (about 8:15 p.m.) for special prayers at the

Altar.

Please invite your friends to come.

### ONGOING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### Tuesdays through Thursdays

Morning Prayer in the Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Noonday Prayer in the Chapel, 12:00 noon.

Evening Prayer in the Chapel, 6:45 p.m.

#### Thursdays

The Holy Eucharist — second and fourth weeks at Heritage Hall Nursing Home, and third at Country Estates Nursing Home.

#### Weekends

Prayer time before scheduled services:

Saturday Eucharist, 4:45 p.m. in the Chapel.

Sunday Eucharist, 7:45 a.m. in the Chapel.

Sunday Eucharist, 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel.

## Pancake Breakfast At First Baptist Church On Sunday, March 1st

The Caring Connection will sponsor a pancake breakfast this Sunday morning, March 1st, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in Bodurtha Hall at First Baptist Church in Agawam.

Following the breakfast, morning worship will be held in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are always welcome. Communion Sunday will be celebrated.

Pastor Richard Barnes will speak on "The Time of Testing," using as his scriptural text Luke 4: 1-13. A special Lenten anthem will be presented by the choir, under the direction of Scott Thomson.

Coffee and conversation are held after worship in Davis Hall; classes are available for all ages until 11:45 a.m.

### On our calendar this week:

**Monday, March 2nd:** 7:00 p.m., Sunshine Circle; 7:30 p.m., Amicitia Circle; 7:30 p.m., Sister-to-Sister Group; 7:30 p.m., Men's Group.

**Tuesday, March 3rd:** 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

**Wednesday, March 4th:** 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open.

**Thursday, March 5th:** 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

**Friday, March 6th:** World Day of Prayer. The meeting will be held at the Church in the Acres, 1383 Wilbraham Road, Springfield. Guest speaker Karen Martin will speak on "Who is my Neighbor?" The offering at this meeting will go to the Church World Service.

### Coming up:

On Sunday, March 8th, the "Nuts & Bolts" class will resume after a recess. This class is an introduction of what it means to be a Baptist, and also a review of Baptist beliefs and practices. Pastor Richard Barnes will lead the class.

Starting March 15th and continuing for a four-week period, our church will join with the Agawam Congregational Church in a Lenten Study Series. More details will be forthcoming.

On Saturday, March 14th, the Mr. & Mrs. Club of the church will again be sponsoring a ham and bean supper. Plan now to attend this well-known event.

## Ham & Bean Supper At 1st Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Agawam, corner of Main & Elm Sts., invites you to a family-style Ham & Bean Supper on Saturday, March 14th.

The supper will include baked ham, homemade baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, tea or milk, and assorted homemade pies.

Servings will be at 4:45 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7, and \$3 for children under 10.

For reservations, please call 786-8609, 786-8209, or 525-2818.

If you are unable to honor your reservation, please call to cancel.

All the hometown news with us - AAN!

### POWERFUL NOVENA TO OUR LADY (Never Known To Fail)

O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me, and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request).

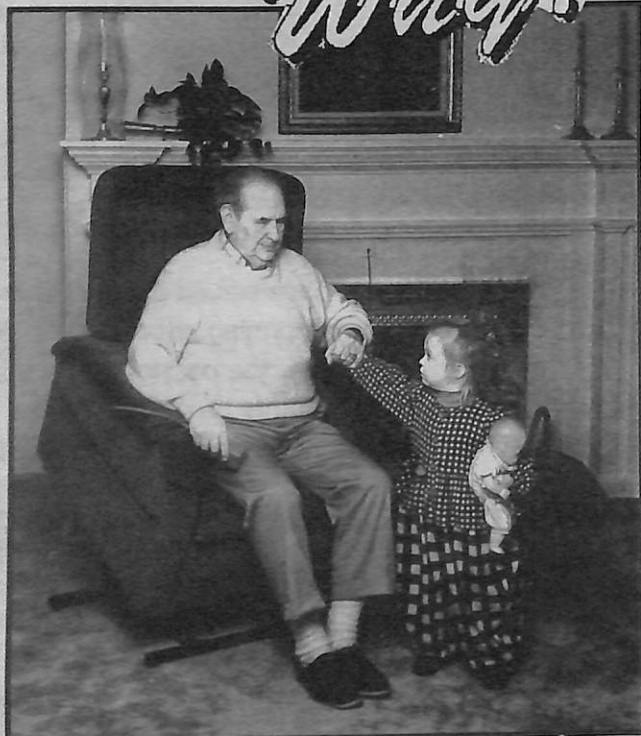
There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse for thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times).

Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

C.J.J.

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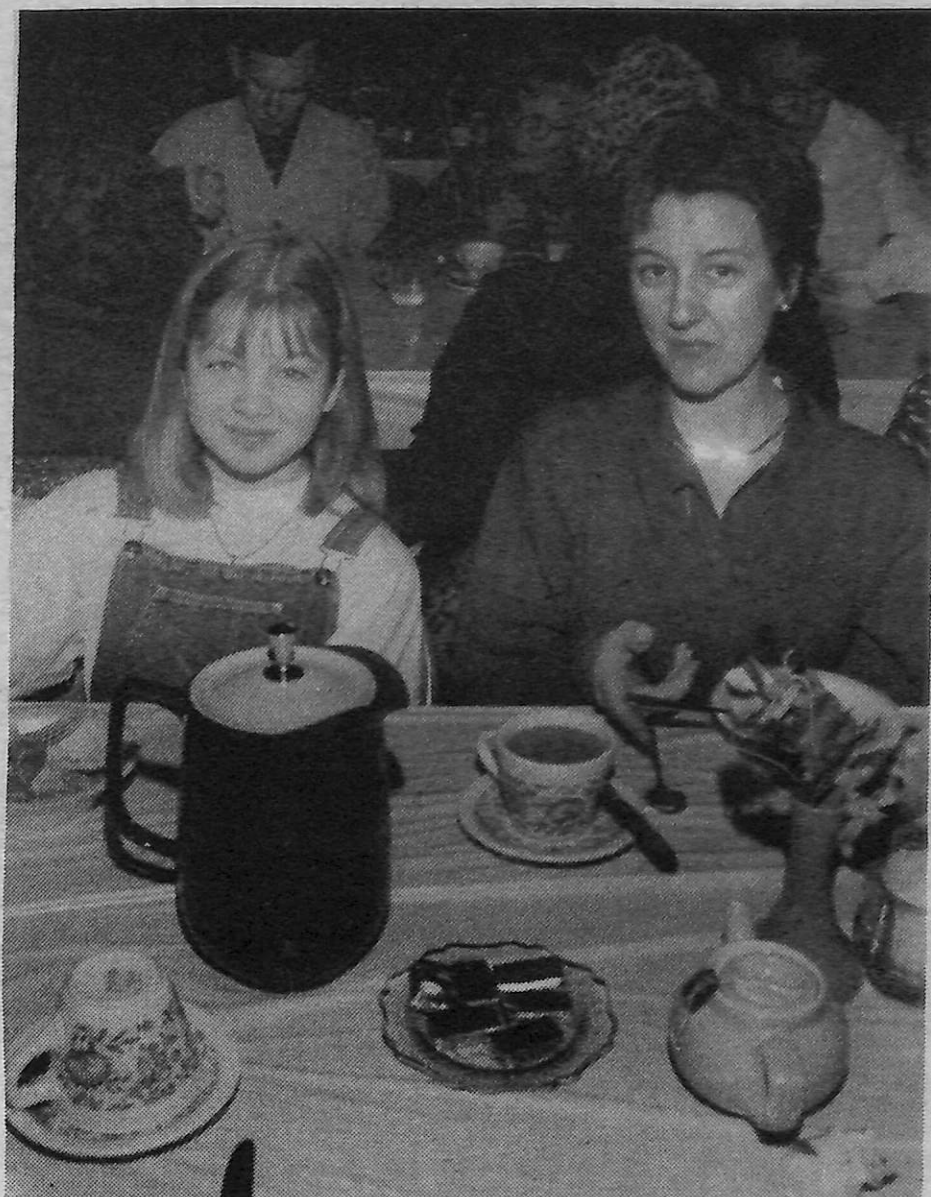
Church News - continued...

# A Few Of St. David's Helpers...



STEPHEN WALTERS, ALEXANDRA WALTERS, and PATRICIA BLANCHARD were among the volunteers at St. David's Church last Saturday who helped pack nonperishable items that will be sent to Rwanda. (See related photos on Page 1.) Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

# Eating At Ag. Congregational...



KELLY FOLLIS AND BEVERLY FOLLIS enjoyed their pot roast dinners at Agawam Congregational Church on Main Street in Agawam. The church supper was held last Saturday, February 21st. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

— Check our classified ads —

**March 2**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
 Adults \$6.00  
 Children \$3.00

*St. David's*  
**Monthly Dinner**

*Menu includes:*  
 Cornedbeef and Cabbage. Oven Roasted Potatoes.  
 Glazed Carrots. Garden Salad. Bread & Butter.  
 Dessert and Beverage

*Tickets sold in advance at all services.*  
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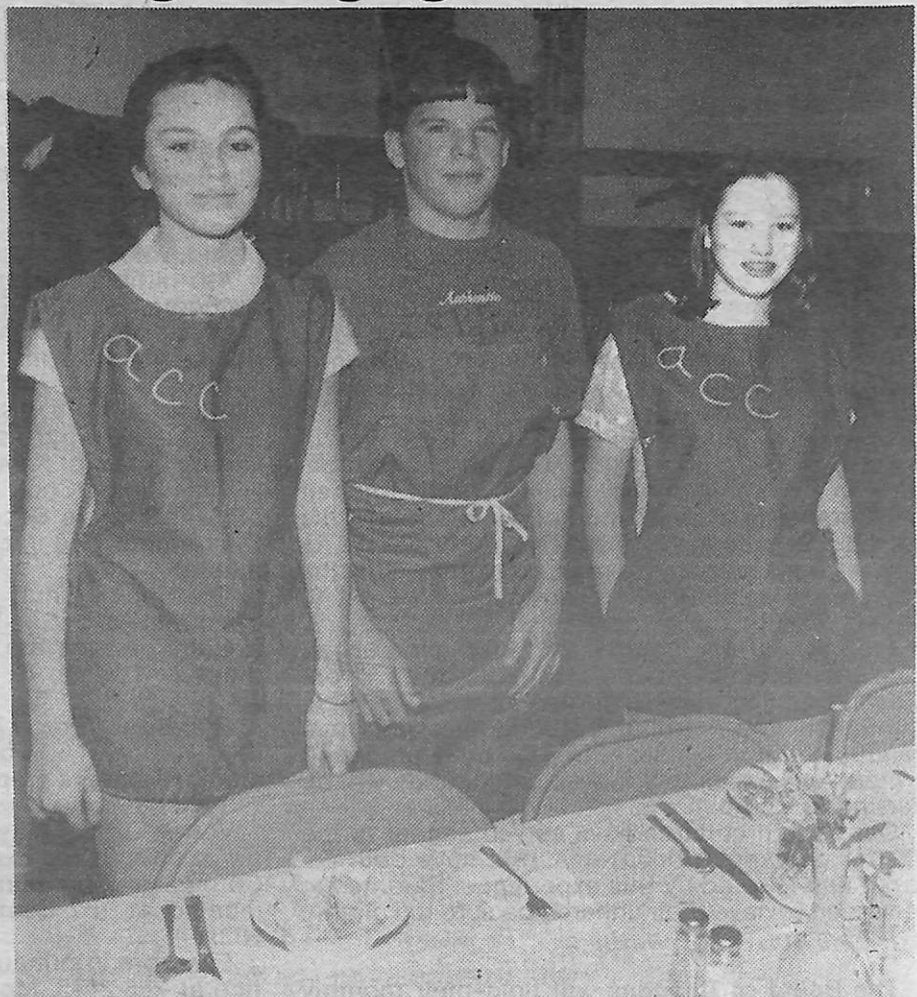
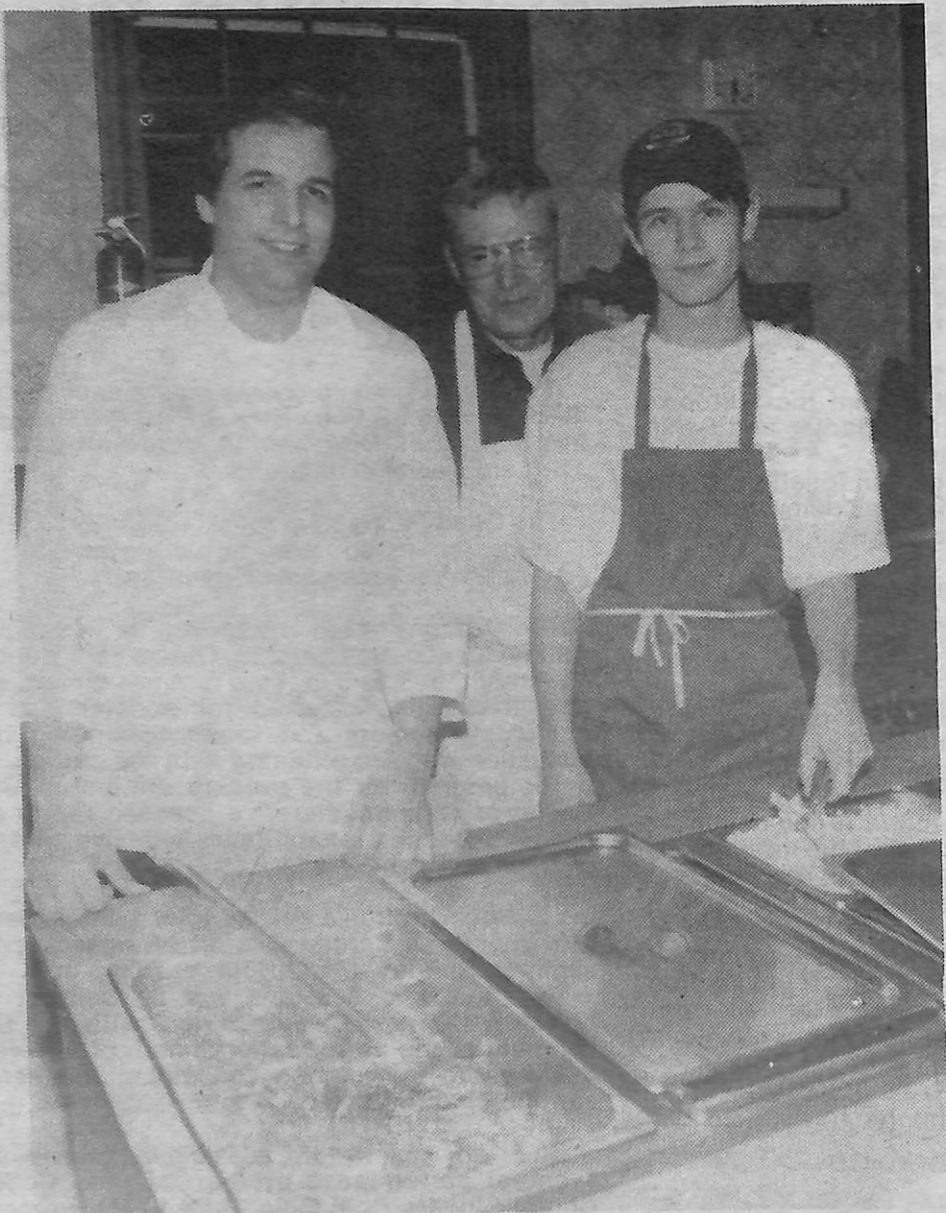
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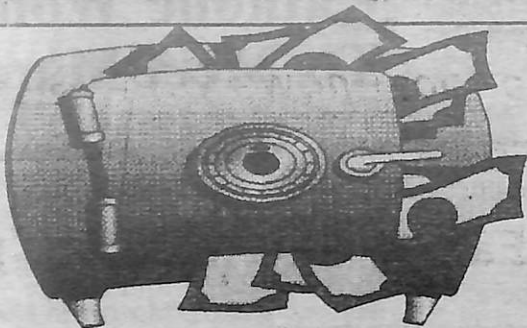
*Church News - continued...*

## Yankee Pot Roast Dinner At Ag. Congregational



JENNIFER MESICK, ROBERT SOLITARIO, and CRYSTAL MESICK were part of the volunteer group at the Yankee Pot Roast dinner at the Agawam Congregational Church in Agawam Center. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH held a Yankee Pot Roast dinner on Saturday, February 21st. Helping out in the kitchen included, from left - Chris Hamel, Jim Randolph, and Chris Bilodeau. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



### The American Dream:

What losing millions can teach someone about real living.

Come hear the dramatic personal testimony of a man who had a multi-million dollar deal slip through his fingers only to find what really matters in life. By the way...he's still smiling!

You can hear his story on

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.**  
**at Agawam Church of the Bible**

(Meeting at the Agawam Jr. High School)

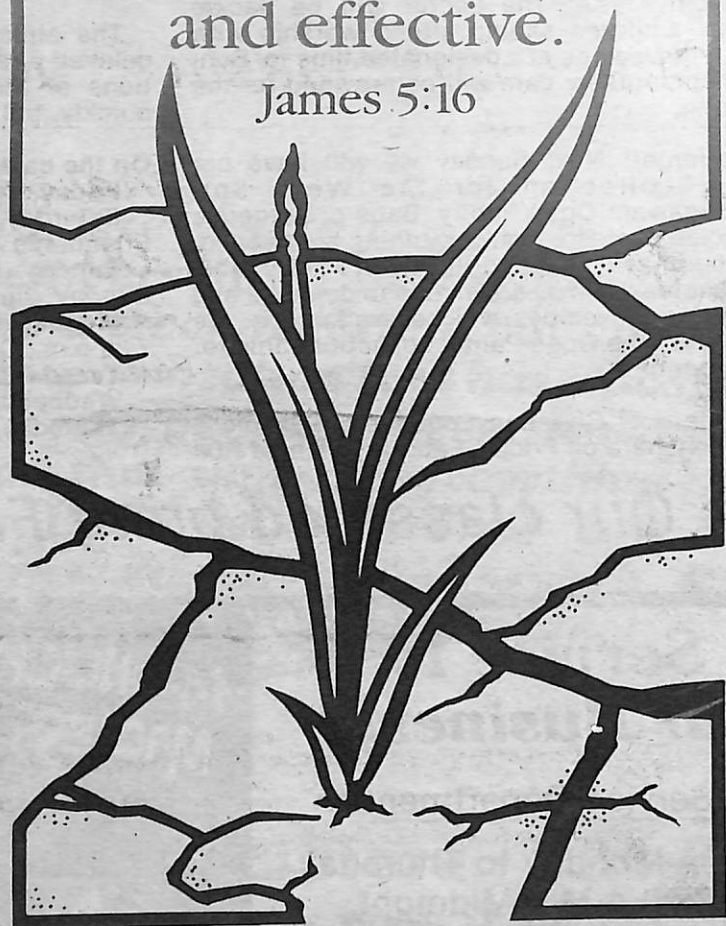
This is NOT your ordinary church service!

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righteous is powerful  
and effective.

James 5:16



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## Church News - continued...

## Valley Community Church Begins Season Of Lenten Celebration

The doors of Valley Community Church are open wide as we warmly welcome everyone to worship with us this Sunday morning, March 1st, the first Sunday of Lent.

On Sunday, Pastor Steve Dennehy will take his message from the gospel of Luke 4:1-13. As he explains the temptations of Jesus Christ by Satan, he will lead us to understand that Christ was tempted so that he could personally experience what we go through, and to be better prepared to help us as we seek his assistance. Holy Communion will be served at the end of the service using the tincture method.

**Children's Church** will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Dunn Hall. Here, the children of the church continue in a Worship Service geared strictly for their understanding. **Coffee and Fellowship** follow the Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. in Dunn Hall. We invite all our visitors to come and meet with the church family and get to know us as we get to know you.

**Church School** begins at 11:00 a.m. sharp. Classes are available for all ages from kindergarten to adults. Nursery care is available throughout the morning. Throughout class time, various children's classes will be busy preparing a meal for **Loaves and Fishes**, which they will be serving at 5:00 p.m.

Our church children have served supper to the shelter on various occasions, and have both enjoyed and learned by this experience. Parents are reminded to have their children back to the church by 4:15 p.m.

The **Board of Deacons** will hold their monthly meeting on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. All

Deacons and Deaconesses are urged to attend.

All the ladies of the church are invited to attend the **Ladies Club** meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd, at the home of Dot Wells. This will be a workshop meeting as these ladies busily prepare their handiwork for the Easter season.

All nimble fingers and creative minds are welcome, as well as those who just want to come out for a night of fun and fellowship. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Music will be resounding from the hilltop on Wednesday night as both the **Junior and Senior Choirs** meet for rehearsals.

The Junior Choir will gather together at 6:15 p.m. as Margie Secora directs their voices and their hearts into the Lenten season through their music.

The Senior Choir will meet at 7:00 p.m. Under the direction of Sue Morgan, this small choir continually amazes the congregation with their harmony and power.

Cub Scout Troop 78, Den 3 will meet on Thursday evening at 6:15 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. These boys are hard at work preparing for the Webelo badges.

Valley Community Church is a non-denominational church and is a member of the International Council of Community Churches. The church is located at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

For more information, please call the church office at 786-2445, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

## Ag. Congregational Lists Calendar For March 1st - March 15th

This Sunday, March 1st, is the first Sunday in Lent. This is also Communion Sunday, with the Service of Worship continuing at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The Sermon given by Rev. Fuller will be "Those Who Trust In God Shall Never Regret It," taken from Text: Romans 10:11. The Children's Message will be "Lost and Found."

The Adult Education Class meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room. The theme for this Sunday will be "Tempting Alternatives."

All are welcome to attend.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is jelly. Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The Deacons of the church will be hosting the Annual Zucco Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, March 8th, at 5:30 p.m. This is a free dinner, with donations being received for scholarships for graduating seniors and those continuing their education who are affiliated with the church.

The program for the evening will feature Julie Collier of "Wingmasters," a licensed raptor and Master Falconer rehabilitator with five birds of prey to speak about.

"A Way Through Lent," a joint Lenten Series with the First Baptist Church of Agawam, will begin on Sunday, March 15th, at 7:00 p.m.

The first two sessions will be held at the Agawam Congregational Church, with the final two held at the First Baptist Church of Agawam.

For more information concerning the series, call the church office.

On Friday, March 13th, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a choral performance by the Defiance College Choral Singers from Ohio. Prior to the program, there will be a Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 p.m.

A free will offering will be taken to defray the choir's travel expenses. Join us for this special evening of fellowship and music.

## Catholic Women To Meet March 9th

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will meet on Monday evening, March 9th in the Parish Center of St. John the Evangelist Church at 7:30 p.m.

Following a brief business meeting, club president Betsy Ciempa will present Debbie Tracy, a certified dance and fitness instructor, who will lead a class in "Moving in Holiness."

The class promotes exercise and inspiration by dancing to Christian music. So, ladies, wear comfortable clothes and join this "feel good" type of class that offers many benefits through moving, stretching, increasing flexibility, and strength.

Hospitality chairperson is Lorraine Maniscalchi. Guests are welcome to attend.

## Feeding Hills Congregational Lists Upcoming Events

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 North Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include a Service of Holy Communion. The lectionary readings for March 1st, the first Sunday of Lent, will be Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, and Luke 4:1-13.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "What Did We Learn from This?" The Lector will be Jackie Gilmartin. Children should attend worship with their parents leaving at a designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

Don't forget! Next Sunday we will have our monthly collection for the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry. Bags of groceries and articles of clean, usable clothing are needed. Please bring your items to the Open Pantry table in the sanctuary. If you are unable to donate a bag of groceries, envelopes will be available in the sanctuary on the Open Pantry collection table for cash discounts.

The Board of Christian Education will hold a Movie Night here on Friday, February 27th, at 7:00

p.m. Bring a friend and your favorite pillow to cuddle with!

Operation Friendship will serve its monthly Roast Beef Supper here on Saturday, February 28th, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Next month they will offer a fun-filled Mystery Dinner Theater on March 28th and again on April 4th. Check this paper for more upcoming information.

The church newsletter, *The Informer*, may be delayed a few days this month due to the renovations of the church office. Things are moving quickly, but not without necessary interruptions!

### On the calendar:

**Friday, Feb. 27th:** 7:00 p.m., Movie Night.  
**Saturday, Feb. 28th:** 5:00-6:30 p.m., Operation Friendship Supper.  
**Sunday, March 1st:** 10:00 a.m., Communion. Sunday; Junior Choir practice after church.  
**Monday, March 2nd:** 4:00-5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Council; 7:30 p.m., OF Play practice.  
**Tuesday, March 3rd:** 7:00 p.m., A.A.  
**Wednesday, March 4th:** 7:00 p.m., Choir.  
**Thursday, March 5th:** 7:00 p.m., A.A.

*Our classified bring FAST results!*

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Service Department

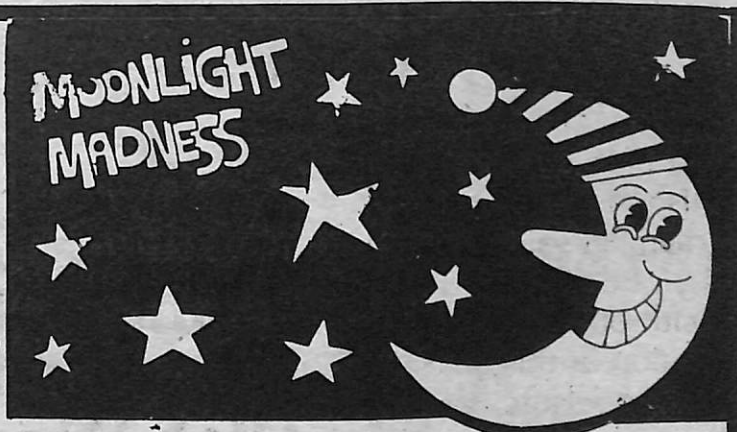
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Of Agawam

176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills

**March 6, 1998**

Stuffed Shrimp Or  
 Prime Rib Dinner  
 With Baked Potato, Salad,  
 Coffee, And Dessert

**Cost: \$8.50**

**Reservation Deadline - March 4th**

Call The Club At **786-0924**  
 After 4:00 P.M.





# Agawam Lions Club



## Who are the Agawam Lions?

The Agawam Lions Club consists of a group of civic minded individuals that donate their time for the betterment of the less fortunate. These people are your friends and neighbors that either live and/or work in the City of Agawam.

## What do the Lions do?

The Lions of the world were charged by Helen Keller to be knights of the blind. Our support of different organizations performing research and developing new and innovative procedures to alleviate blindness is well documented. Our support of the communities in which we live is just as important and vigorous, but less known. Many of the projects that we run are specifically designed to generate funds that we donate to many different types of groups and individuals needing assistance within our own community.

## What are the responsibilities of membership?

As a member of the Agawam Lions Club you would be required to attend regular meetings, fundraising projects, serve on committees, and participate in all club functions. You may also be asked to be a member of the board of directors or an officer of the club. Your involvement in our organization is to a large extent your choice, but never to be less than our minimum requirements.

## How do I become a Member?

You must be invited to become a member of the Agawam Lions Club. Our intent with this advertisement is to ask you to become a member. An existing member will sponsor you and you will be the responsibility of that member until we feel that you are comfortable with our organization. Please feel free to fill out an application at this time or take one with you and submit it at your leisure. We need to have your participation to carry on our work.

## Some Accomplishments:

- Over \$300,000 donated to Massachusetts Lions Eye research. (More than any other club in the State).
- Purchased Ice Rescue Sled for the Agawam Fire Department.
- Purchased land to enlarge Phelps School athletic field and support Agawam athletic programs.
- Our club contributed to the building of the Agawam Y.M.C.A. Pool.
- Purchased all new sight and hearing equipment for the Agawam School System.
- Established the original Anne Sullivan Memorial (Helen Keller's teacher) in Feeding Hills Center.
- We have purchased equipment and furnishings for the Agawam Senior Center.
- Contribute to Lions District 33Y Sight and Hearing Fund
- We support Scouting activities (both boys' and girls') within the town.
- We donate \$6,000 in scholarships per year to Agawam High School seniors.
- Donate food and financial assistance to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.
- We donate time, manpower, and money to many other local organizations, clubs, and associations too numerous to mention.

**We are asking you to consider membership in an organization that has a track record in our community. An organization that has a positive effect on people's lives. An organization that supports everything that we as Lions hold dear. If you are interested in membership in our organization, please contact:**

**Dennis Librera - 786-2622**  
**Ron Wieners - 786-6633**  
**Dick Bassett - 786-2430**

## Membership





## Spotlight On Business

**Pam Savioli**

**Landry, Lyons &  
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### Home-Selling Tips...

If you're thinking of selling your home, keep in mind that buyers appreciate a clean look in the homes they view. You can increase the value of your home and decrease the time it takes to sell by making a few simple improvements.

Aroma is the first thing prospective buyers notice when they step inside a home. To eliminate odors, steam clean your carpet and wash walls and floors with household cleaners and disinfectants. Keep your home smelling fresh by burning candles or potpourri, boiling a pot of cinnamon sticks, or putting a dab of vanilla on cold light bulbs before turning them on.

Nothing makes a home look newer faster than painting. Painting your walls and removing outdated wallpaper may be the best interior improvements you can make. For broader appeal, paint in neutral colors such as beige, white, off-white, or gray. These colors suggest newness and cleanliness and can brighten a dull or outdated room.

If your carpet is badly worn, outdated, or stained, consider replacing it. If your carpet is heavily soiled, you may want to have it professionally cleaned. Brighten the interior of your home by cleaning your windows and opening your curtains to let light in. Clean hanging light fixtures and add the highest-wattage bulbs allowed.

For more ideas on getting your house ready to sell, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

### Keenan & Molta Associates Reports Record Sales In 1997

Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates recently announced record sales for 1997, reflecting high traffic and consumer interest, according to Robert Molta, president of Keenan & Molta Associates.

Molta stated that sales in 1997 were the best in the company's history. In addition, a record number of residential listings were taken for sale during the same period.

Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates, located in Agawam, Longmeadow, Southwick, Springfield, and Westfield, can be reached at 413-569-0138. Coldwell Banker has served the Greater Springfield area for the past 15 years.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation has more than 2,600 independently owned and operated real estate offices and has more than 56,000 Sales Associates throughout North America.

Coldwell Banker Online, one of the real estate industry's most comprehensive Web sites, is located at: <http://www.coldwellbanker.com>.

For more than 90 years, Coldwell Banker has been North America's premier full service provider of real estate services.

### Westfield Bank Makes \$5,000 Donation



**DEBORAH J. MCCARTHY**, an assistant vice-president of Westfield Bank, presents a check for \$5,000 to **Lisa Sullivan**, representing the fundraising committee for Helmets for Hope. The funds will be used for the purchase of special heat-seeking helmets that use infrared technology allowing firefighters to see through dense smoke, thereby helping to save lives and increase the safety of firefighters.

### Coldwell Banker Announces 1997 Top Producers

Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates recently named their top producers for 1997:

**Barbara Adornato** of Longmeadow, of the Longmeadow office, was named top producer of the entire company for 1997. She was also awarded the President's Circle award for being in the top five percent internationally for Coldwell Banker.

**Linda Santinello** of Agawam was named top producer of the Springfield office.

**Frank Pinney** of Westfield was named top producer of the company's Westfield office.

**Chet Kasperek** of Agawam was named top producer of the Agawam office.

**Kathy Neilsen** of Agawam was named New Associate of the Year.

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### Legal Memo

by  
**Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.**  
546 Springfield St., F.H.  
(413) 786-9454



### Personal Injuries At Spectator Events

Where plaintiffs (1) allegedly sustained injuries when they were struck in the head by a bat which slipped from the hands of a professional baseball player during a game (2) have sued, as defendants, both the player and his team. A judge determined that the suits must fail because the defendant player's action did not amount to reckless misconduct.

The defendants argue that the court should dismiss the plaintiffs' complaints for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, because baseball players like defendant do not owe spectators a duty of reasonable care while performing activities which are inherent to the game of baseball.

The plaintiffs claim the defendant owed the plaintiffs a duty of reasonable care regardless of whether he was performing an act inherent in the game of baseball. The plaintiffs also claim the defendant baseball team was vicariously liable for the conduct.

A judge ruled that it is impossible for the participant to play at his/her utmost ability, whether it be in amateur or professional sports, if the participant is burdened with a mere negligent standard of care regarding acts inherent in the sport. Spectators expect the participant to push the limits of their abilities and make the impossible play a reality.

If a player is burdened with a negligent standard of care regarding acts inherent in the sport, that player will be forced to play gingerly and with forethought as to its consequences, thus destroying the excitement of the game. This duty is unreasonable and in fact impossible because both the coaches and the spectators expect the participants to make split-second decisions in order to successfully achieve the tasks which are inherent in the sport.

Personal injury cases arising out of an athletic event must be predicated on the standard of reckless disregard of safety. The undisputed facts reflect that the defendant swung at a pitch and as he did so, the bat slipped out of his hands. This conduct is clearly inherent in the game of baseball and cannot be considered reckless misconduct.

Attorney **Alan J. Ferrigno** maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts.

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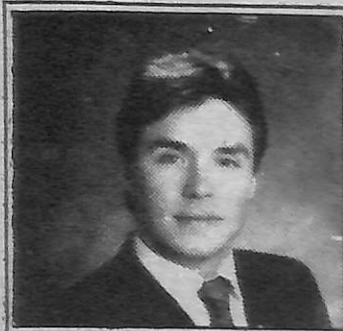
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# For Your Health



## Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph  
S. Schlaffer  
Schlaffer  
Chiropractic Offices  
192 Shoemaker Lane  
Agawam

### Skiing This Winter? Be Careful!

If you're an avid skier like me, you've undoubtedly been watching the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan.

You may have seen the outstanding performance by Austria's Hermann Maier. Arnold Schwarzenegger affectionately calls him the "Hermanator."

Maier, a veteran alpine skier, won the gold medal in the men's super G. His chance at a gold medal in the men's downhill was cut short by one of the most spectacular falls in recent memory. If you witnessed this fall, you probably wondered how he did not break any bones or worse!

As a skier, perhaps you've been involved in a bad fall. Torn ligaments and tendons are a common result. Occasionally, a fracture occurs. The earth is very unforgiving. Stop and consider for a moment what happens to the delicate spine during a bad skiing mishap.

The spine is often over-compressed, or over-flexed, or extended. An injury on the ski slope is very often the same type as that received in an auto crash. The body is struck or badly jarred, and the bones in the neck or back can be misplaced, or sometimes fractured.

When this occurs in an arm or leg, the fractured bone is set and nature heals the break with time. But not so easily detected and more threatening is a misplaced or damaged vertebra in the spinal column.

If one or more of these bones is even slightly out of line, it can mean pressure on the nerves inside the spine and actual partial or complete paralysis of muscles and organs.

It can cause permanent spinal curvature later, which shows up with startling clarity on x-rays of many patients.

Today, many top athletes have a team of health providers on hand to provide immediate help when injury occurs. A doctor of chiropractic is often part of this team. While skiing is one of the most exhilarating winter sports there is, no bad fall should be forgotten until after a chiropractic consultation and examination.

If you've had a bad fall or other injury, feel free to call us at the Schlaffer Chiropractic Office, 192 Shoemaker Lane. We're ready to help. Call 789-1368 or 789-1073.



## Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell  
Registered Dietician

### Adapting Food Choices And Physical Activity To Match Personal Needs

At every stage of life, healthful eating fuels fitness. Consumers can benefit from a lifelong eating pattern that promotes health by adapting food choices and physical activity to match personal needs.

Yet, statistics show not everyone is taking steps necessary to achieve good health. A recent nationwide survey conducted by The American Dietetic Association (ADA) indicates that 55 percent of Americans 55 and older say they do all they can to live a healthful lifestyle, compared to only 28 percent of 26-34 year-olds.

"It's encouraging to see that the majority of older Americans realize the importance of eating well. However, nutrition is an important issue for people of all ages," said ADA president Polly Fitz, R.D. (registered dietitian). "Eating for good health should start at an early age. The sooner you develop healthful eating and physical activity habits, the longer, healthier, and perhaps more enjoyable your life may be."

According to Fitz, everybody needs the same nutrient, just in different amounts. Age, gender, and body size are among the reasons why people's nutrient needs differ.

In addition to the Food Guide Pyramid recommendations, ADA offers the following advice:

#### CHILDREN

\* Get a healthy start to the day. Kids need a good breakfast to get moving in the morning and to do their best in school and play.

\* Increase daily intake of fiber. Eating a variety of grains, fruits, and vegetables is the best way to fill children's needs for complex carbohydrates, soluble and insoluble fiber.

\* Get moving for the fun of it. Physical activity, whether playing hopscotch or bicycling, and good nutrition are key to developing a healthful lifestyle.

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#### WOMEN

Choose iron-rich foods. During childbearing years, increased need for iron may be a concern. Make daily selections from lean red meat, liver, pinto and kidney beans, spinach, enriched and whole grain breads, cereals, rice, and pasta.

\* Select low-fat dairy foods. Build and maintain strong bones throughout life by getting enough calcium. Include three to four daily servings of calcium-rich foods such as non- or low-fat milk, yogurt, cheese, broccoli, sardines, and collard greens to reduce the risk of osteoporosis.

\* Get enough folic acid before and during pregnancy. Eat a variety of folate-rich foods to prevent neural tube birth defects. Foods rich in folate include citrus fruits and juices, dark green, leafy vegetables, whole-grain and fortified breads and cereals, and legumes (beans, peas, and peanuts).

\* Maintain a healthy body weight. "Energy in" must balance "energy out." Make a commitment to the following lifestyle behaviors: enjoy a variety of foods in moderation, get regular physical activity, and personalize efforts to match individual schedules, family situations, and personal preferences.

#### OLDER ADULTS

\* Enjoy plenty of calcium-rich foods. Foods such as milk, cheese, and yogurt can slow the progression of bone loss.

\* Keep moving. Moderate physical activity helps keep blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar normal, strengthens muscles and bones, and helps digestion.

\* Keep drinking water. Take lots of fluids to prevent dehydration.

\* Enjoy a variety of foods. Perk up the flavor of favorite foods by using herbs, spices, and lemon juice to compensate for a diminished sense of taste or smell.

#### PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

\* Be realistic. Gradually make changes in lifestyle and eating habits. And, remember, nobody's perfect. Allow for an occasional slip-up, but get back on track as soon as possible.

\* Be adventurous. Try new foods. By expanding choices, people are more likely to get sufficient quantities of the 40 essential nutrients found in foods, which may increase vitality and reduce risk for many diseases.

\* Be flexible. No need to worry about just one meal or one day. Balance meals and physical activity over several days.

\* Be sensible. Enjoy all foods, just don't overdo it.

\* Be active. Walk the dog, don't just watch the dog walk.



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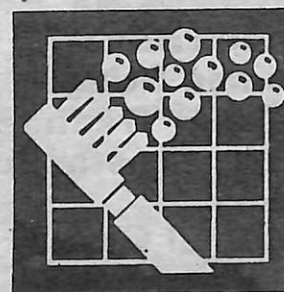
(413) 789-0031

## Children's Dental Health Month

*If you presently have a dentist, we hope that you have visited that office recently. If you do not have a family dentist, come join a growing family practice that is designed to make your child's visit fun!*

Join us today in celebrating children's dental health month!

*In honor of children's dental health month, we are offering a free dental exam at the first cleaning visit to all new patients under the age of 18. Call today for an appointment.*



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*For Your Health - continued...*

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Care  
by  
Dr. Tami Nelson  
Chiropractic  
Physician  
Hampden County  
Chiropractic  
850 Springfield St.  
Feeding Hills  
786-4820**

**Stress!!**

What do you think of when you hear that word? There are as many different ideas about stress as there are people. Stress is the way you react (physically, psychologically, and behaviorally) to change.

Stress can be positive or negative. It can vary from the sense of concentration you feel when faced with a new and challenging situation or the sense of anxiety after a long, exhausting day. It's important to learn to manage stress so you can be in control.

Positive stress is short-term, as soon as the challenge is met or threat dealt with, the body relaxes and returns to normal. The relaxation response is the most important aspect of positive stress. Positive stress is a series of arousal and relaxation responses that help you deal with changes and challenges of daily life.

Negative stress is when the cycle continues. The body stays geared up and doesn't relax, it's stuck "on." This is distress, there is no true relaxation between one crisis and the next. This is when I see patients come into the office.

Many of the musculoskeletal problems people have are directly due to this negative stress. With stress, the muscles tighten, which causes an uneven pull on the vertebrae or spine, which creates more stress, etc. This creates a vicious cycle that needs to be stopped before it creates major physical problems.

You can stop the cycle of negative stress by:

- becoming aware of stress and your reaction to it
- developing positive attitudes and lifestyle changes
- chiropractic care

As chiropractors, we not only treat the problem, but we look at the whole person and try to prevent the problems from happening. If you are suffering with a stress-related condition, call our office today!

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. She is available to answer questions on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at 786-4820.

**We do not accept  
classifieds over the  
phone. Stop by the  
office or mail to Box  
263, FH, MA 01030.**

## Fitness First Proud To Again Sponsor Aerob-A-Thon

Fitness First Health and Fitness Center in Feeding Hills is proudly sponsoring the 12th Annual Children's Miracle Network Racquetball Tournament, Aerob-A-Thon, and Spinning Marathon on March 6th, 7th and 8th.

The goal this year is to raise \$20,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. "Over the past 11 years, we have been able to raise over \$90,000," said Kurt and Paula Welker, owners of Fitness First Health & Fitness Center.

"We are asking you to open your hearts and help us with our goal by donating a raffle prize, promotional items for our giant raffle, and/or perhaps even sponsoring our event with a monetary donation."

Major sponsors are \$1,000 and Tournament sponsors are \$250 but, of course, any donation is gratefully accepted. All checks should be made payable to the Children's Miracle Network.

"In return," said the Welkers, "we would be willing to put up an signage, banners, and other literature with regard to your products for a period of two weeks. This will target approximately 200 participants and 3,000 members, as well as guest traffic continuously during that period. Members will see your company name on their way to workout, during and after!"

All of the money raised will go to the Children's Miracle Network. In the past, money raised has gone towards building of the children's playdeck, rocking chairs for parents to rock their ill children to sleep in, educational games, research, and most recently, toward the further development of the "Child Life" program at the Children's Hospital at Baystate Medical Center.

The Child Life program has been developed to help ease parents' and children's anxieties while helping them cope more effectively with the child's hospital experience. This invaluable team of experienced people also provides clarification of medical terminology to parents about exactly what is going on with their child.

The staff at Fitness First believes that giving to sick children is one of the most important charities people can give to. Your generous donation(s) will be acknowledged in its CMN list of sponsors and prizes to be handed out at the tournament banquet on Saturday, March 7th.

**Please remember  
Jack Devine needs  
at least 48 hours  
notice to cover your  
events.**

## Support Groups And Course At Noble Hospital

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Stroke Support Group:** Wednesdays, March 4th and March 18th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (both evenings). In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from stroke and their support persons.

**Diabetes Support Group:** Tuesday, March 24th, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to all suffering from diabetes and their support persons. Dr. Kelly D. Burek will speak at this meeting about foot care and the diabetes patient.

**COURSES**

**CPR Course:** Two-part course — Wednesdays, March 18th and 25th, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (both evenings). In the Education Department/Ground Floor of Noble Hospital.

This course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant certification. Cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call the Noble Hospital Education Department at (413) 568-2811, ext. 5914.

## Reducing Stress Part Of West Side Seminar On Thursday, March 5

Dr. Steve Sobel, Founder and Director of The New England Institute For Stress Management of Longmeadow, will be presenting the seminar, "IF YOU AREN'T LAUGHING, YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT LIVING! - A UNIQUE SEMINAR DESIGNED TO REDUCE TERMINAL SERIOUSNESS, DECREASE STRESS and UPLIFT YOUR LIFE."

The program will be held on Thursday evening, March 5th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Ramada Hotel in West Springfield (Rt. 5).

Cost is \$10 per person with advance registration highly recommended. Steve Sobel is the author of "THE GOOD TIMES HANDBOOK - YOUR GUIDE TO POSITIVE LIVING and an EXCITING LIFE."

Call 1-800-874-7189 or 413-565-5000 for full details/registration. For every four people that attend from a group, a fifth attends for free.

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Dr. Tami Nelson

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**For Your Health - continued...****Managing  
YOUR  
STRESS**by Dr. Stephen Sobel  
M.S., S.M.C.**Listening To Your Own Song  
And Flying Like An Eagle**

Whatever you choose to do in your daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly life, I wholeheartedly encourage you to fly like an eagle — strongly, yet gently, through the good times you have created and become aware of. Soar strongly and gently through what you perceive to be temporary setbacks and difficult times.

I have observed and yes, spoken, to many eagles, and it seems that the one thing that keeps them going is that they seem to pilot themselves by listening to their own song. What this means is that deep in their core/being, they have a reservoir of energy, enthusiasm, perseverance, and optimism.

Even on the windy and stormy days, I have observed these eagles are able to cope and ultimately thrive despite what many others would call chaotic and overly stressful circumstances.

In speaking with an eagle recently, I asked the question, "What gives you the ability to tap into that reservoir when you need to?" I asked the question knowing that many would ask it. The answer was obvious to the eagle, but it certainly made me sit down and take notice.

The eagle said, "Dr. Steve, you need to understand that limits to living a full life only exist in one's mind. When you break through these self-imposed limits, you attract other eagles who will support you, encourage you, and fly with you. They help you tap into that reservoir even when you feel doubtful about what is in there."

"By the way, Dr. Steve," the eagle continued, "that is why I fly with so many eagles. They each have their own song deeply embedded within themselves, and each success they share with each other is contagious. There is no reason not to fly like an eagle and with eagles, is there, Dr. Steve?"

I invite you to read and reread many times what my eagle friend said to me. It is probably the idea that has helped people accomplish things in their lives that they never thought they could accomplish.

I feel that what the eagle said will allow each of you to know that there are many good and nurturing people out there worth trying to find and getting to know. You may end up flying in the pack of eagles before you know it and getting in touch

**Hearing Screening At  
Ag. Senior Center By  
Mercy Hospital**

Mercy Hospital's Weldon Mobile Hearing Center will conduct free hearing screenings and hearing aid checks at the Agawam Senior Center on Monday, March 16th at 9:00 a.m.

In addition, full diagnostic hearing tests, evaluations, fittings, sales and service of hearing aids, and assistive-listening devices, can be scheduled on a fee-for-service basis.

The hearing van's audiology equipment is operated by nationally certified audiologists from the Weldon Hearing Center at Mercy Hospital.

For a reservation, call the Agawam Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242.

**Breast Cancer Support  
At March 3rd Program  
At Mercy Hospital**

The Breast Cancer Support Group, sponsored by the Women's Pavilion at Mercy Hospital, will meet March 3rd and 17th, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Women's Pavilion, 299 Carew St.

The group is open to women who have experienced mastectomy and other breast surgery, or who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Family and friends are welcome to attend and share their experiences and concerns.

For more information, call the Women's Pavilion, (413) 748-9080.

check our classified



with your own flight song.

Remember what was once recited to my eagle friend by his father (who, by the way, was also an eagle): "The quality of life is in the mind, not in the material." Amen!

**Support Group For  
New Mothers To Meet  
March 4th & 18th**

New mothers are invited to share their questions and concerns at a New Mothers' Support Group, sponsored by the Family Life Center at Mercy Hospital.

The next sessions will take place March 4th and 18th, 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the Family Life Center lounge.

Meetings are open to mothers with babies up to one year-old, and offer the opportunity to talk with professionals from the Family Life Center's Parenting Education Department and share experiences and information with other new mothers.

Topics include newborn care, infant feeding, postpartum concerns, returning to work, and parenting issues. Babies and partners are welcome to attend.

For more information and to register, call the Family Life Center, (413) 748-7295.

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Tickets: \$25 per person

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**Help us to help others understand epilepsy and to find a cure!**

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING:**

Sue and Wayne Hearn 789-1529

Sharon and Sean Collins 789-0058

Kim and Rick Martel 786-1169

Maria and John Pietroniro 786-5770

Please return the following with your check by Feb. 10, 1998

**To: The Western Mass Epilepsy Awareness Committee**

c/o Carol Pietroniro

34 Cedar Knoll Drive

Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Tables may be reserved for 10 or more.

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# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation: \_\_\_\_\_

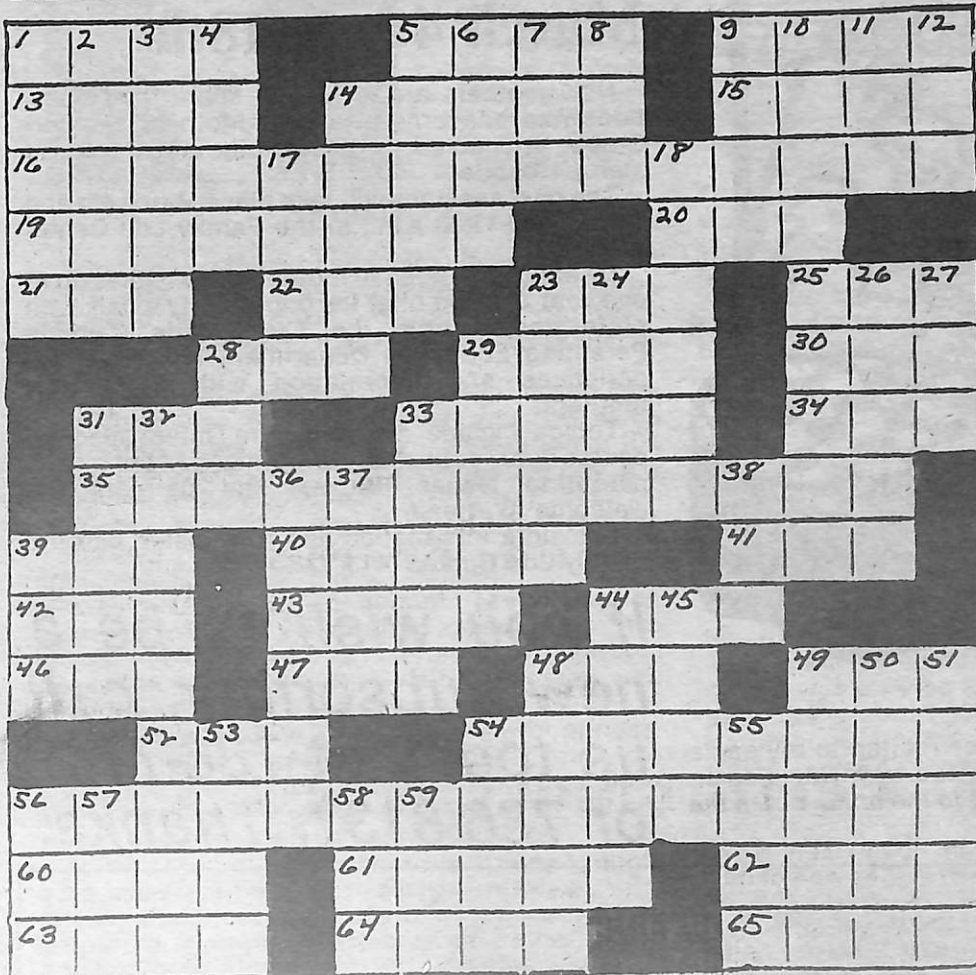
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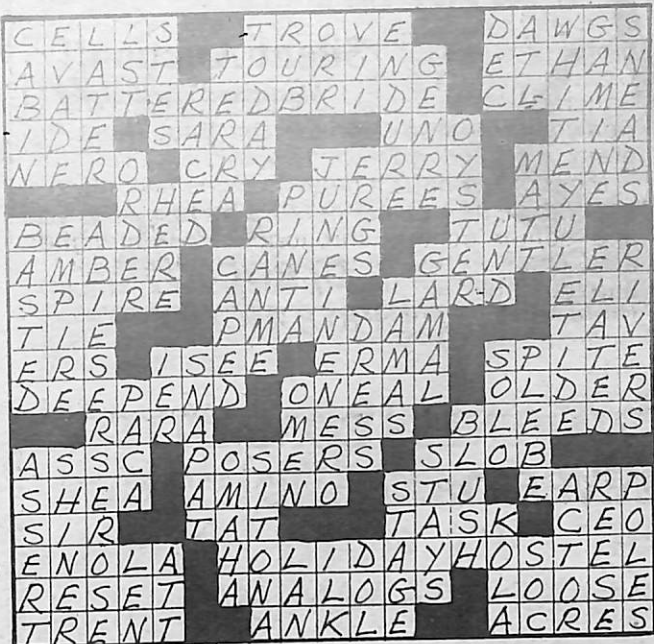


# Arts

## MEET THE MASTER — by Dick Mastroianni



### Last Week's Solution...



#### ACROSS

- 1 Greek portico
- 5 Ocean liner
- 9 Corrosive item
- 13 Cash drawer
- 14 What the harvest moon does
- 15 Composer Porter
- 16 Hemingway novel (with The)
- 19 Re-mix
- 20 Seer's talent
- 21 HMO workers
- 22 Lode item
- 23 "— Na-Na"
- 25 Lout
- 28 Prado contents
- 29 Dueler's memento
- 30 Birth certificate notation
- 31 Take steps
- 33 Oak dropping
- 34 Bend in the middle
- 35 Magical role for Frank Morgan
- 39 Spark a lady
- 40 "Not as ——" (seldom)
- 41 Charlemagne's domain
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- 43 "— Mable"
- 44 A Sinatra ex
- 46 Prefix for magnetic or politics
- 47 Presidential monogram
- 48 Vast time period

#### DOWN

- 1 Rage
- 2 Put down a floor
- 3 "... only as — you feel"
- 4 Donations to the poor
- 5 Use with another
- 6 Clue
- 7 Gary's state
- 8 House animal
- 9 Highest cards
- 10 Partner in a way
- 11 "— de France"
- 12 Drug-busting agency
- 14 Stable sound
- 17 Hebrew lyre
- 18 "... evil — evil..."
- 23 Make a point
- 24 Difficult
- 26 Confound
- 27 Garden of Eden fruit
- 28 Dined
- 29 Balance
- 31 Make amends
- 32 Favorite cake flavor
- 33 Blue color
- 36 Walk like a duck

- 37 Angered
- 38 Government agency for housing
- 39 Artificial head covering
- 44 Fabric eaters
- 45 Regarding
- 48 Go in
- 49 Foolish prank
- 50 Allen
- 51 Beasts of burden
- 53 "— out of the money"
- 54 News
- 55 Far or Mid direction
- 56 School group
- 57 Nickname for Durocher
- 58 Greek letter
- 59 Switch positions



AGAWAM ARTIST FLORIDA TANGOCCHI will be the featured artist at the Agawam Public Library during the month of March.

## Artwork Of Artist Florida Tangocci On Display At Library

The Agawam Public Library is pleased to present the artwork of a local artist, Florida Tangocci, in the gallery for the month of March.

Florida's favorite medium is watercolor, but also is involved with acrylics, inks, oils, pencils, mixed mediums, and collages.

She has been an officer of the Agawam Community Artists, member of the Springfield Art League, Agawam Senior Center, and the Agawam Cultural Council.

The viewing hours for the gallery are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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**ADVERTISER NEWS**

## Portrait Artist Giving Demo On March 5th

Don Wilhelm, a well-known area portrait artist, will present a lecture and demonstration on the art of portrait painting on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m., at the Captain Leonard House, 633 Main Street, Agawam.

Mr. Wilhelm received a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Arizona. He is an exhibiting member of the Copley Society of Boston. Mr. Wilhelm's works are presently in many private collections in the United States and Europe. Currently maintaining a studio in Holyoke, Mr. Wilhelm teaches adult classes at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts. Mr. Wilhelm's talent and flair will delight and entertain you. His subject will be a live model. Whether you are an artist or just enjoy art, please join us for a delightful evening.

Under the auspices of the Agawam Cultural Council, meetings and demonstrations of the Agawam Community Artists are free and open to the public.

For additional information regarding the Agawam Community Artists or any of the artists that have been featured in our schedule of monthly programs, please contact Florida Tangocci at 786-3689.

**best local news...**



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## Genealogical Society At Ct. Valley Museum On Wed., March 4th

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society will meet at 7:00 p.m. on March 4th at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Donald Damato of the Springfield Public School's Bureau of Pupil Services, whose program is a slide presentation on the historic Springfield Cemetery on Maple Street.

This beautiful cemetery was consecrated in 1841, and walking among its grave stones is like opening a door to Springfield history, since burials from the 1660's are to be found here, moved from a 17th century graveyard at Court Square.

Notable "residents" of the cemetery include dictionary writer Charles Merriam, author Thornton Burgess, Crimean War Survivor John Howell, and Milton Long (who died on the Titanic).

In addition, unique stones mark some burials, including a six-foot marble house bearing the inscription "In Mansions Above."

Dr. Damato earned his BA from American International College and his MA and PhD from the University of Connecticut. He has lectured widely on local and regional history and is the author of a book on Springfield history.

As usual, the genealogical library at the Museum will open for members' research at 5:00 p.m.

## Planning Meeting For WestFest Is Scheduled For Thurs., March 5th

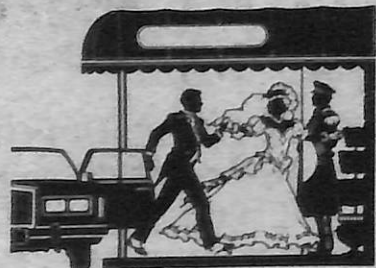
The next planning meeting for WestFest is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th, at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the United Methodist Church, corner of Court Street and Holland Avenue in Westfield.

Volunteers and committee members are needed! Please call 588-2962 for further information.

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**MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM "SENIOR BAND" will be performing at the Agawam Center Senior on Friday, March 6th, at 7:30 p.m. Front row - Evelyn O'Melia (on piano) and Jim Kallipolites (drums). Standing - Bobby Kay, Darcy Davis, Tibbs Walsh, Art Brunell, Paul Brusseau, and Mary Mulcahey.**

## Agawam's "Senior Band" Planning March 6th Performance At Sr. Ctr.

The "First Friday" Program by the Melody Band of the Agawam Senior Center will be one of only a few times the group can be heard in an evening program. The performance will take place at the Agawam Senior Center on Friday, March 6th at 7:30 p.m. and admission is open and free to the general public.

Agawam Melody Band has been active in the community since 1990. The Band was formed at the Senior Center by Sandra Smith, Activities Director at that time and the original membership included Danny DiDonato (leader, banjo, and vocals), Lillian Meyer (piano), Jim Kallipolites (drums), Paul Brusseau (violin and vocals), Darcy Davis (trumpet), Jim White (organ), "Tibbs" Walsh (guitar), and Bobby Kay along with Mary Mulcahey on special effects. As organizer, Sandra also contributed to the ensemble on "wash-tub" bass.

Thelma Nickerson joined to take over as vocalist after the first years. By 1993, Art Brunell had taken over the leadership of the group and plays electric bass and harmonica as well as doing some of the vocals. Evelyn O'Melia became the pianist and John Brusseau joined on electric

guitar shortly after that.

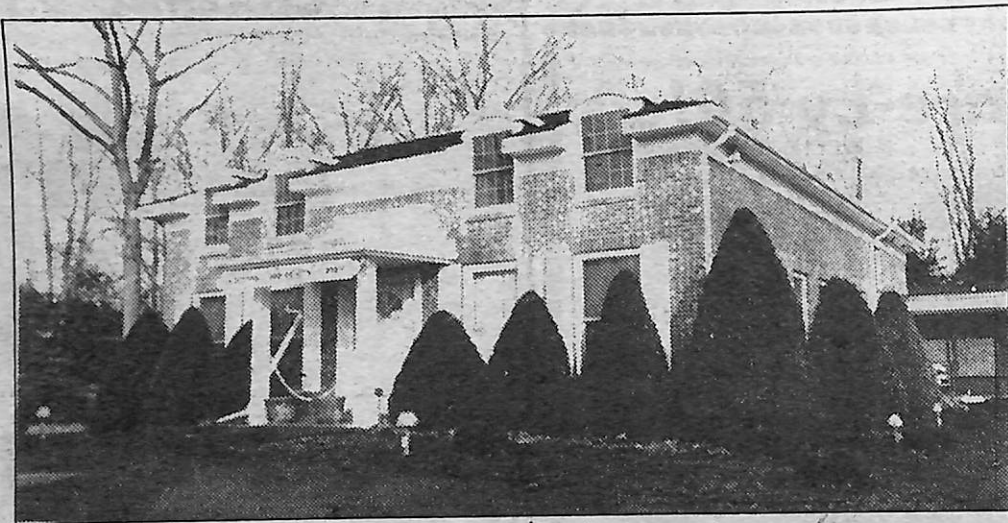
In recent years, we have seen Jim Gregor filling in on drums, Lu Parchick-Cauley taking over on vocals and George David coming in on saxophone.

The program on March 6th will also feature members of the World War II Chorus in a few selections and seating will be at tables with light refreshments available.

Over the years, the Melody Band has presented programs at senior activities at the Senior Center, Chez Josef, The Oaks, Stanley Park, and the Polish Club Pavilion as well as town programs on Agawam Heritage Day and the First Night Program.

Most of the band's performances take place at daytime visits to local nursing homes, hospitals, and senior centers throughout the Springfield area, so they are looking forward for the chance to appear before a different audience at the First Night event sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Council for the Arts.

## Drs. Joseph M. & Katherine S. Schlaffer



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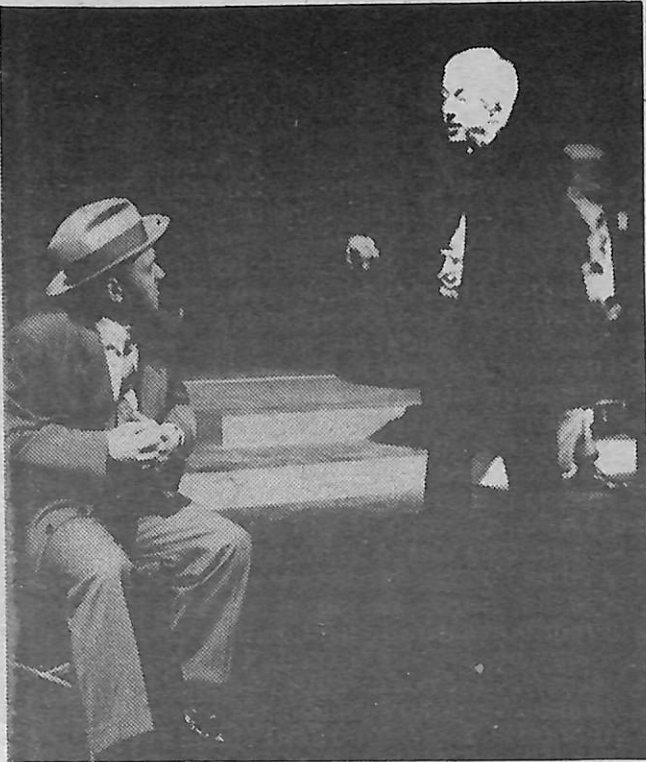
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FRANK ARONSON (left) and BILL LAWREN of the Theater Project in "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield.

## West Side Theater Continues To Stage Gangster Spectacle

The Theater Project continues to stage Bertholt Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* until March 14th, according to Danny Eaton of The Theater Project.

Brecht, whose works include *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Jewish Wife*, and *Mother Courage and Her Children*, fashioned the play, which chronicles the infiltration of gangsters in Chicago's cauliflower industry during the 1930's, to parallel the path taken simultaneously by Adolph Hitler in wartime Europe. A wickedly humorous, complex work, Brecht himself described the play as a "gangster spectacle."

Following *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* will be the final presentation of The Theater Project's first full season at the Majestic Theater, *The Buddy Holly Story* (April 2nd-May 9th). *The Buddy Holly Story*, which was initially staged last spring as the opening presentation of the Majestic Theater, ran for 30 sold-out performances and is returning by popular demand.

Tickets for *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* range from \$9.50 to \$17.00 depending on the time of performance, and can be purchased by calling the box office at (413) 747-7797. Box office hours are Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

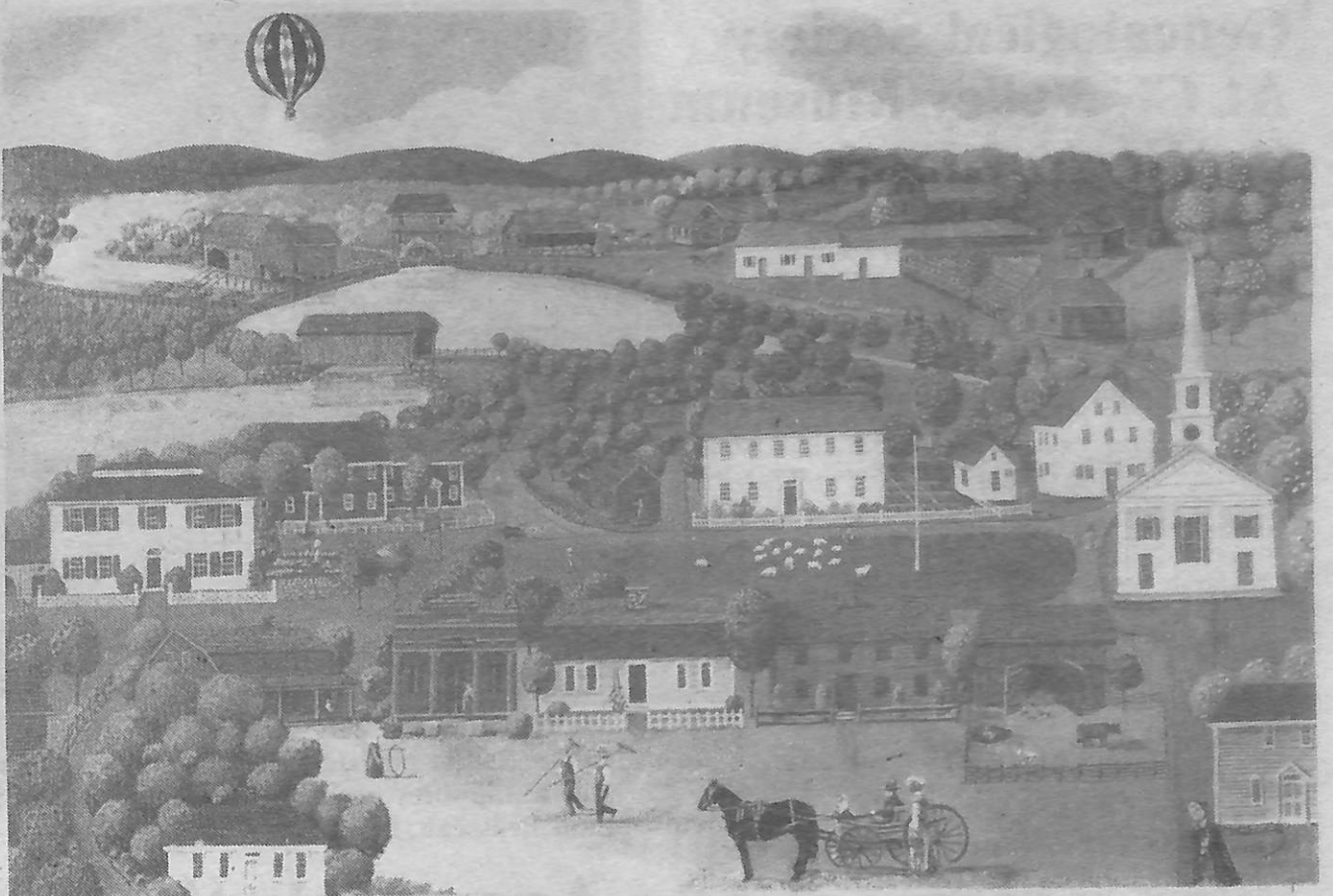
## Bare-Ly 50!



## Happy Birthday, Big Mike

3/8/48

Your Family,  
Louise, Danielle, And Dianna



AN ARTIST'S RENDERING of Old Sturbridge Village.

## Agawam Historical Society To Present Program On Old Sturbridge Village

On March 10th, the Agawam Historical Association will host the Ramopogue Historical Society of West Springfield and will present a program on Old Sturbridge Village, one of the largest outdoor museums in the United States.

The Village serves as a powerful public monument to the American Story. William B. Reid, Director of Development of the Village, will review the history and future plans of Old Sturbridge.

Accompanying Mr. Reid will be Robert Olson, who will portray Richard Potter, the first American-born magician. Mr. Olson has spent the last 30 years researching the 19th century life of Richard Potter from antique books, newspaper ads, letters of people who saw his shows, even account books that show how much Potter paid boards of selectmen for licenses to perform.

Mr. Olson, like Potter, uses a lot of audience participation in "Yesterday's Magic." Olson performed throughout the U.S., Canada, and England and won awards for his work; but what he finds most rewarding is magic presentations to children and families.

Mr. Olson's fondest dream is that one day, following a performance, someone from the audience will come forward - someone who just happens to be a descendant of Richard Potter, and possesses the old magician's trunk of tricks.

Richard Bellico, President of the Agawam Historical Association, stated that due to an anticipation of high attendance, the meeting will be held at the Agawam Baptist Church Hall at 760 Main Street, Agawam. A business meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Historical Association is continuing with the sale of historical gift items as part of its effort to raise funds for the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum. These items will be available on the night of the meeting and will continue to be permanently displayed at the new Fire Station Headquarters and Town Hall.

For further information, call Richard Bellico at 568-9147, ext. 224.

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## Raymond Drewnowski To Perform With UMass Wind Ensemble

Raymond Drewnowski of Agawam will be performing at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the Wind Ensemble Concerto Concert on Monday, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m.

He will be playing works from Rossini, Grundman, Mozart, Youtz, and Brittain on the saxophone. Drewnowski is a senior in music performance at UMass Lowell.

The Concerto Concert is part of the UMass Lowell College of Fine Arts Ensemble Series. Drewnowski will be accompanied by Jason Bielik and Thomas Souza, both on the clarinet. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 978-934-3850.

UMass Lowell, a comprehensive university with special expertise in applied science and technology, is deeply committed to educating students for lifelong success and conducting research and outreach activities that bring value to the region.

Second largest of the UMass campuses, Lowell currently offers its 13,000 undergraduate and graduate students more than 100 different degree programs in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Health Professions, and Management.

## Agawam Library To Show The Film "AIR BUD"

Agawam and Feeding Hills residents ages four and up are invited to the Agawam Public Library on Saturday, March 7th, at 2:00 p.m. to view the film "AIR BUD." This film stars real-life hoop hound "Buddy," a golden retriever with an ability to shoot baskets.

*Newsday/Kidsday* writes that the film is, "A heartwarming family comedy that will make you feel good!" The film is rated PG and runs for 98 minutes.

Bring something comfortable to sit on, and we will provide a snack. PLEASE CALL 789-1550, OR VISIT THE LIBRARY TO REGISTER.

## Annual Agawam Day In FLA On March 4th

The 17th Annual Agawam Day Picnic will be held on March 4th at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs, Florida at Shelter 5.

Please bring your lunch, beverage, and chairs. We welcome new friends and love to see old friends, living in or visiting Florida at this time. Please pass the word to anyone you know who might be able to attend.

Door prize donations are always welcome. Come and join us. See you there!!

For information, call Betty & Ken Grady at 1-813-938-7521 or Evelyn Martel at 1-813-937-0018.

## Suffield Players Are Gearing Up For Next Show

Suffield: O.K., so let's just say that God, or the gods, exists. Then what?? Then, life as interpreted by Garrison Keillor and Woody Allen (and the Suffield Players, of course) can be very, very strange, and funny. Why?

Because they (the gods, that is) can make life any way they darn well please, and that includes absurdly funny! In one case, what would happen if the gods woke up one morning, to find out that they were subject to all the same mundane daily problems, aches, and pains that we mortals are relegated to?

The answer is: big time trouble in paradise, and "THE MIDLIFE CRISIS OF DIONYSUS!"

Or, what if a couple of ancient Greek playwrights, with a nearly terminal case of writer's block, could phone anyone they pleased (including any deities whose area code they just happened to know), to get some solid hints on their latest play, which turns out to be the one you're sitting and watching?

The answer: "GOD," a pure comedic chaos, as the play spills over into the audience and fantasy runs headlong into reality.

To get a dose of this "humor of the gods," call the Players at 1-800-289-6148. Show dates are March 5th, 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, and 21st (with an optional fourth weekend, March 27th & 28th), at historic Mapleton Hall in Suffield.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m., with curtain promptly at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for the first Thursday and \$12 all other nights, with discounts for students and seniors with proper I.D.

It's your chance to see just what can happen when man plays God and the gods get stuck playing man! Please note that these shows are intended for mature audiences only.

## Agawam Cultural Council To Sponsor Bus Trip To NYC

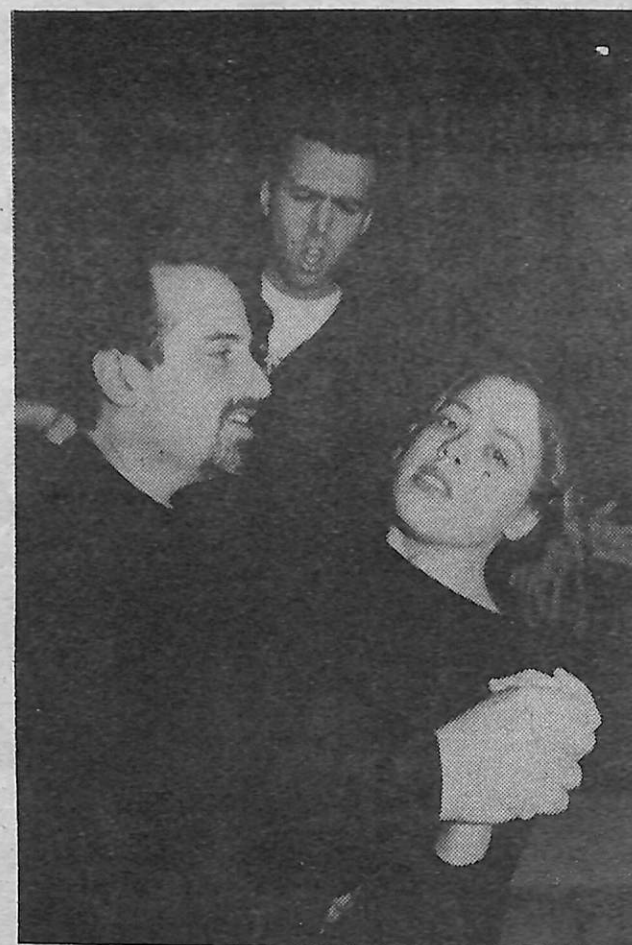
The Agawam Cultural Council will sponsor a New York bus trip on Saturday, May 9, 1998. There are many museums and attractions for people to enjoy and plans can be made to choose attractions each person would like to see.

Five stops will be made to enable participants to easily access their interests. Stops will be made at the Metropolitan Museum, Rockefeller Center, Times Square ticket booth, 34th Street, and the South Street Seaport.

Tickets are \$18 and can be ordered from the Agawam Cultural Council, 933 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of the tickets. Further information can be gotten by calling 786-1859.

*Best local news...*



IT LOOKS LIKE THREE'S A CROWD, as Arron Schwartz and Bryn Anne Manion kick up their heels, and Mark Russell protests, in the Players' comic force, "GOD," by Woody Allen. For your opportunity to cut in, call 1-800-289-6148.

## Book Discussion At Agawam Public Lib. On Monday, March 23

A discussion of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* will be held at the Agawam Public Library on Monday evening, March 23rd, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Morrison conceived of *Beloved* as the first novel in a trilogy that is completed by *Paradise*, her most recent novel.

If you interested in joining the discussion, please register by March 16th (789-1550). If you need a copy of the novel, you can order one at the library for \$7.50. Book orders must be received by Feb. 23rd.

*Check our classified*

## Happy 16th Birthday, Midget



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### Continuing Education & Transfer Student INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday, March 7 • 10-11:30 a.m.

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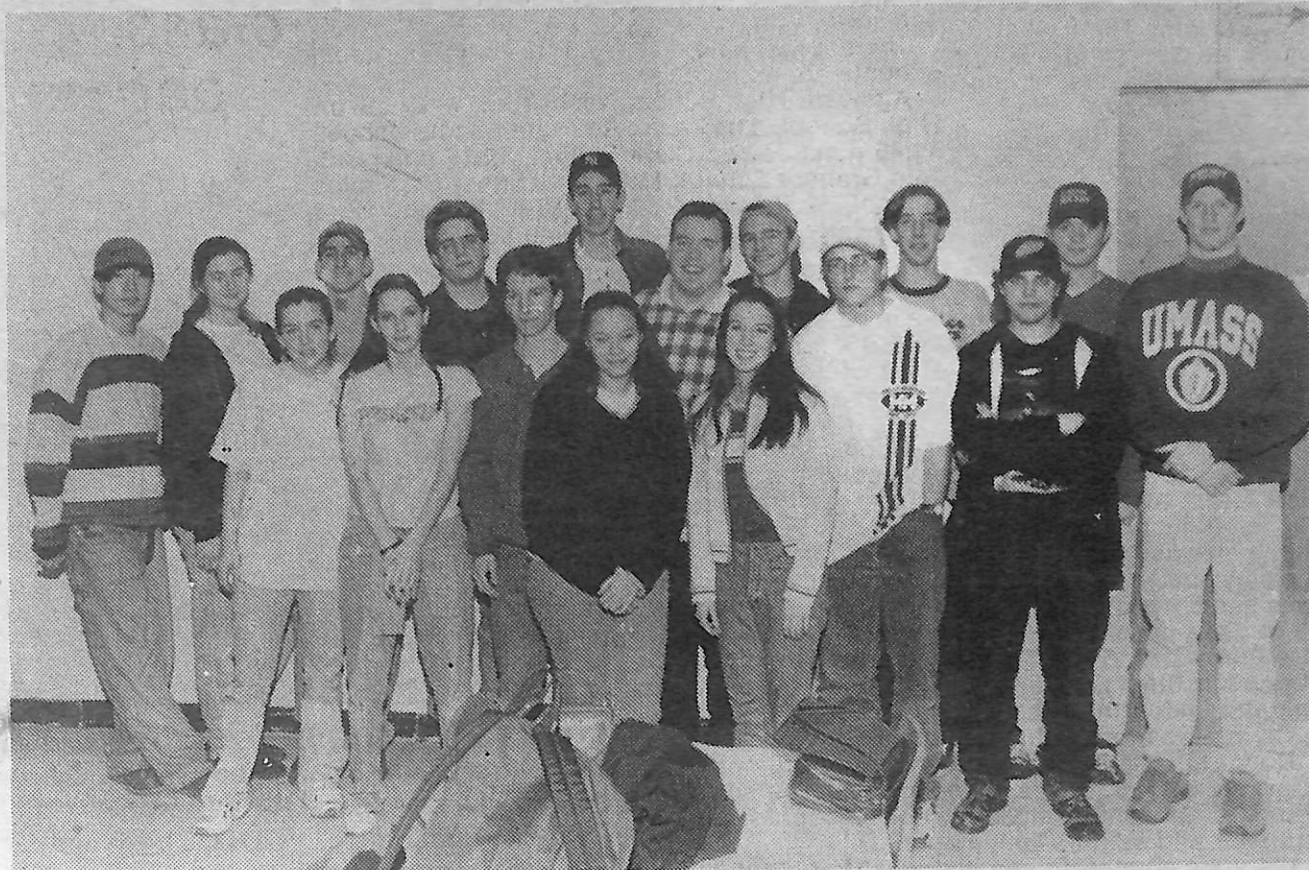
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## Education

### Renaissance At AHS Reaps Ice Cream



RECENTLY, AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS who scored over 1,200 in last May's SAT exams were given an ice cream social by the Renaissance Program. Hood Company sponsored the event. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

### Local Students On Fall Dean's List At Western New England

Western New England College has named the following local students to the Dean's List for the 1997 Fall Semester:

**From Agawam:** Stephanie J. Bean, Benjamin J. Benton, Susan E. DeFillipi, Erin E. Grady, Tara A. Grealis; Christina M. Ianello, Lisa A. LaMontagne, Amy M. McKinney, and Christina D. Shaw.

**From Feeding Hills:** Kathleen M. Arenstam, Mark M. Brittain, Sarah J. Cote, Kristi L. Hermans, Carmine M. Keane, Sean C. Szczgiel, Innessa V. York, and Todd R. Zern.

Western New England College is a private, comprehensive, coeducational institution located on a 185-acre suburban campus in Springfield with an additional 19 sites throughout the Commonwealth.

The College serves its 4,500 students with undergraduate programs in its Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business and Engineering, and graduate programs in its School of Business, Engineering, and Law.

### Free Info Session At Bay Path College On Sat., March 7th

The Office of Continuing Education at Bay Path College will hold a free information session for women interested in furthering their education on Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m. in Breck Suite, Wright Hall on the Longmeadow campus.

The session will offer prospective first-time and transfer students information about Bay Path's academic programs, including bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, and certificate programs; supports services; and financial aid guidelines.

Bay Path offers new continuing education students half tuition for their first two courses, and the college's Board of Trustees has also authorized an additional \$100,000 in scholarships for new qualified continuing education students.

Women interested in attending the March 7th session should contact the Office of Continuing Education at the college at (413) 567-0621, ext. 340 or toll free at 1-800-782-7284.

### Berkshire Power Pays AHS Sophomore Class For House Clean-Up

by Kathy Cassanelli  
News Editor

Helping with the housework has probably never been so profitable for a group of Agawam High School sophomores.

Armed with brooms, mops, and cleaning supplies, the teens swept, scrubbed, and mopped their way to a big payoff for their class treasury by helping Berkshire Power prepare a vacant house for the real estate market.

Just over a dozen sophomores spent a day working as the clean-up crew to get the Shoemaker Lane home, formerly owned by Susan Fay, ready for sale in return for a \$1,000 donation to their class treasury.

Berkshire Power Community Representative Joann McGeoghan said, "Berkshire Power feels strongly about helping in the community whenever we can. The sophomore class should be applauded for their initiative. They didn't look for a handout, but were willing to go out and earn some money."

AHS Principal Joseph Zabielski said Berkshire Power's generous donation is the first time he can recall a business offering students an opportunity to earn money in exchange for providing a service.

Sophomore class President Dianna DiStefano got an enthusiastic response from her classmates at a hastily arranged meeting with their class advisor the day after being offered the job.

"It was a last minute thing and it was a good deal for our class," Dianna said. "As a class, we had already decided that this would be our fundraising year to cut down on the cost of prom tickets and the other activities we'll have as upperclassmen. Berkshire Power helped our class a lot."

According to their class president, the sophomores on the clean-up crew showed their willingness to work hard for their class and they had a good time doing it.

"It was hard work, but we brought our music and had fun doing it," Dianna said. "The people who were there wanted to be there and it was great for our class."

Berkshire Power hopes other businesses will follow their lead by offering non-profit community groups the chance to earn some money for their causes, Mrs. McGeoghan said.

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## AHS Class Of 2000 Clean-Up & Earn Pay



SOPHOMORES FROM AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL joined with Berkshire Power to clean-up a home on Shoemaker Lane and then receive a \$1,000 donation for the class treasury for their efforts. IN TOP PHOTO - Sarah Prussman, Jen Lyman, and Kerry McGeoghan; PHOTO BELOW - Berkshire Power Community Rep. Joanne McGeoghan, and students Dianna DiStefano, Ann Paquette, and Kaitlin White. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



## Early Release Day For Agawam Schools

On Tuesday, March 3rd, the Agawam School System will conduct an Early Release Day for students and staff in grades PreK-12.

Kindergarten and Early Childhood classes will not be in session. Also, no school lunches will be served that day.

The approximate dismissal times for individual schools are as follows:

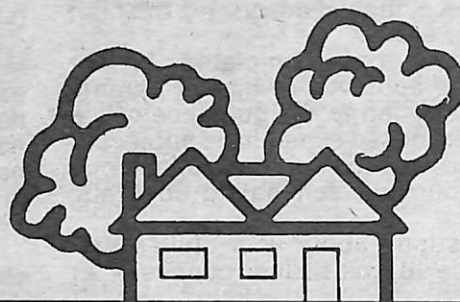
Agawam High School, 10:45 a.m.; Agawam Jr. High School, 11:15 a.m.; Agawam Middle School, 11:45 a.m.; James Clark School, 12:15 p.m.; Clifford Granger School, 11:40 a.m.; Benjamin Phelps School, 12:15 p.m.; Robinson Park School, 12:15 p.m.; Early Childhood Center, no sessions.

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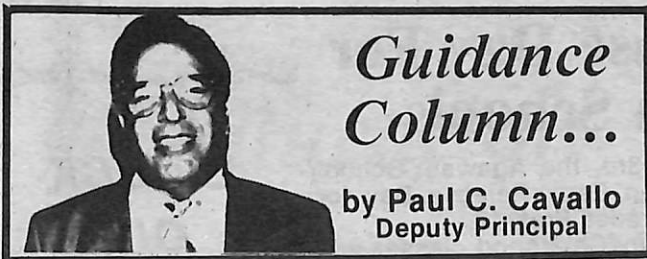
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MEMBER F.D.I.C.







## Guidance Column...

by Paul C. Cavallo  
Deputy Principal

### The "Scholarship Fair"...

A very important event will take place on Monday, March 9th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. — the "Scholarship Fair."

Over 50 local clubs and organizations will be here to explain and disseminate their scholarship applications. We strongly encourage those seniors who are planning to further their education, along with their parents, to be here on Monday, March 9th. It will take only one hour of your time.

All of the instructions for completing the application are noted on the application. **No applications are given to the Guidance Department; they are mailed to the organization by their established deadline date.**

Guidance counselors have visited with all students at the high school regarding the Program of Studies for next year. Each student should be prepared to plan his/her 1998-1999 academic schedule with his/her guidance counselor when called for this appointment. Students were given a booklet describing the high school's courses of study.

Once the student has completed his/her schedule, it must be approved by his/her parents or guardians and returned to the guidance office in three days. The proposed schedule is subject to change, since some courses may be dropped due to insufficient enrollment, scheduling conflicts, or for other reasons.

If you have questions about your child's program, don't hesitate to call his/her counselor at 821-0527.

\*\*\*

#### GUIDANCE BULLETIN

**COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES:** Congratulations!

**Eileen Daly:** University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, Roger Williams University.

**Geoff Krapf:** Clarkson University.

**Jessica DeGray:** St. Anselm College.

**Lindy Gage:** University of New Hampshire, Bridgewater State College.

**Jennifer Thibodeau:** University of Rhode Island, Bridgewater State College.

**Cheryl Lanier:** Holyoke Community College.

**Andrea Elias:** Holyoke Community College.

**Kristen Patterson:** American International College.

**Shawn Sherry:** Quinnipiac College, Merrimack College, Fitchburg State College.

**Maria Tirone:** Holyoke Community College.

**Ali Scherban:** UMass Dartmouth, Westfield State College.

**Kristin Ferguson:** Quinnipiac College, University of Connecticut.

**James Crowley:** University of Massachusetts.

**John Szymczyk:** University of Massachusetts.

**Mary Briancesco:** Holyoke Community College.

**Nikki Lawson:** Lasell College, Westfield State College, Sacred Heart University, Merrimack College, Bridgewater State College.

**Jessica Hansen:** Holyoke Community College.

**Jennifer Zerra:** Northeastern University, Roger Williams University, Quinnipiac College, Trinity College.

**Tom Roberts:** Framingham State College.

**Amber Conte:** Suffolk University.

**Julie Heim:** University of Massachusetts, Westfield State College.

**Kevin McKay:** Springfield College.

**Jack Biscoe:** Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College.

**Adolfo Bruno:** Lynn University.

**Seema Gada:** University of Massachusetts.

**Jennifer Fell:** Holyoke Community College.

**Douglas Nooney:** Holyoke Community College.

\*\*\*

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** See your counselor for more information or an application.

**Mark Chapman Scholarship Award:** This scholarship will be awarded to a student of Agawam High School entering a two- or four-year college in the field of Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, or Technology Education. This award will be based on a combination of financial need, character, grade average, class rank, and school activities. Completed applications should be returned to the Guidance Office by March 31st.

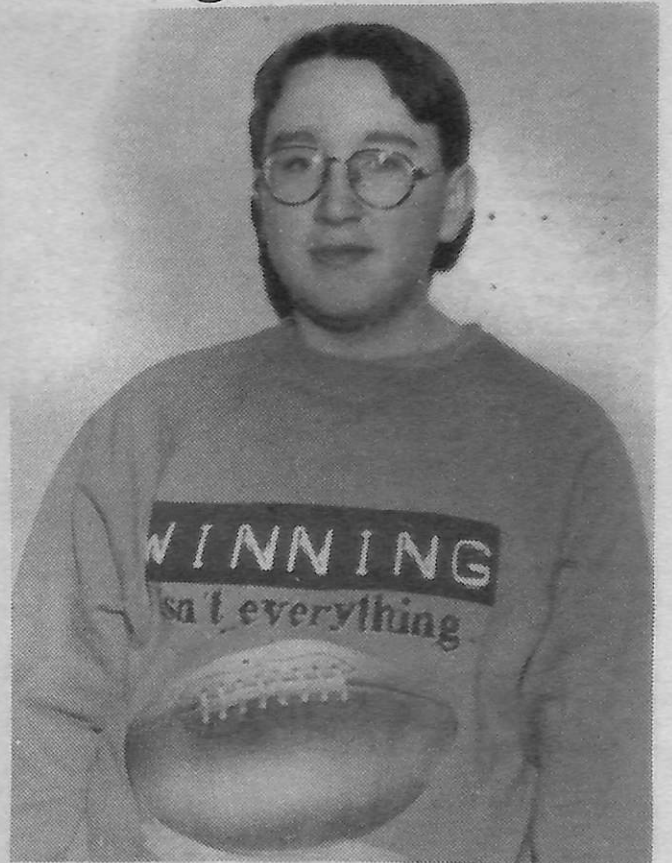
**Pascal A. DeLiso Scholarship:** Twelve students in the Springfield area will be awarded \$1,000 each. The applicant must be of 50 percent Italian descent, accepted at a two- or four-year college, have a commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, have high academic merit, and have participated in community or civic service. Deadline: April 30, 1998.

**Silvio O. Conte Education Foundation Scholarship:** The following scholarships will be offered by this program: 1) Silvio O. Conte Boston College Scholarship will be awarded to a student who plans to attend Boston College, 2) Corinne L. Conte Nursing Scholarship will be awarded to a student in an R.N. program, and 3) the Silvio O. Conte Scholarship to high school seniors. Completed application forms must be returned to the Guidance Office by March 30, 1998.

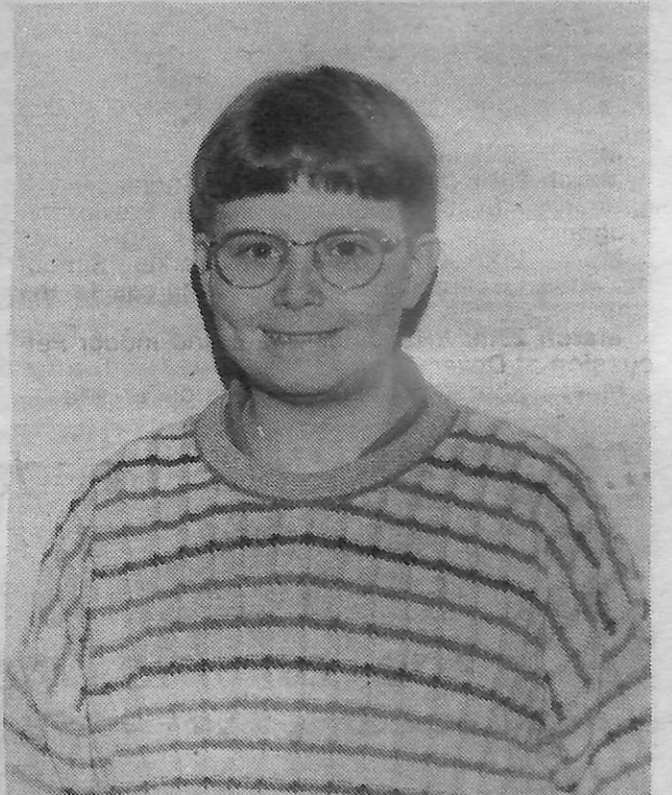
**National Association of Insurance Women of Greater Springfield Scholarship:** Six \$500 scholarships will be awarded to an individual who is continuing his/her education in any field of study. Deadline: April 1, 1998.

**Springfield Garden Club Scholarship:** These scholarships offer financial aid to students who plan to study Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns, City Planning, Land Management, and/or allied subjects. Deadline: April 15, 1998.

## Sorry, Guys.... It's Right This Time.



**MATT DUPLESSIS**, eighth grade "Art Student of the Month." Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



**DAN DREWNIK**, the seventh grade "Student of the Month" for January. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

## Samuel K. Peters On Fall Dean's List At Bryant College In Rhode Island

Samuel K. Peters of Feeding Hills, a senior Marketing major, has been named to the fall semester Dean's List at Bryant College.

Bryant College, located 12 miles outside of Providence in Smithfield, Rhode Island, is recognized as one of the leading business colleges in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Barron's*.

Bryant enrolls more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students annually. In addition, more

than 10,000 business people representing 1,800 firms annually take advantage of continuing education programs and corporate outreach efforts.

The college is among 20 percent of business colleges nationwide that are accredited by the AACSB, The International Association of Management Education.

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## Agawam High School's March 1998 Calendar Of Events

**March:** Peer Leadership Junior High presentations. Renaissance events - ice cream social for perfect attendance for first semester; perfect attendance awards for February; and VIP awards. Winter sports GPA pizza party.

**March 2nd-5th:** NHS phon-a-thon for the American Heart Association at Olympic Manufacturing, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**March 2nd-6th:** World Language Week. All Spanish, French, Italian, and Latin classes, voluntary participation by all of AHS.

**March 1st:** AHS color guard and indoor percussion at Mansfield, MA.

**March 2nd:** Band Parents meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**March 3rd:** Early Release Day - 10:45 a.m. AHS Math Team - Math League meet at Hopkins Academy.

**March 4th:** Spring athletic physicals.

**March 5th:** "Dating and Sexuality in the 90's," sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

**March 7th:** S.A.D.D. state conference at Waltham, MA, sponsored by Peer Leadership. Jazz Band to IAJE State Finals.

**March 9th:** AHS Guidance Department Scholarship Fair, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**March 9th-31st:** Food Drive for Open Pantry.

**March 11th:** Math Club meeting.

**March 14th:** AHS Color Guard and Indoor Percussion at Dartmouth, MA.

**March 15th:** AHS Color Guard and Indoor Percussion at Agawam High.

**March 16th:** First day of the Spring Athletic Season. Make-up physicals for spring athletics.

**March 17th:** Health Advisory Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**March 19th:** AHS School Improvement Council meeting, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**March 21st:** AHS Jazz Band at UNH.

**March 22nd:** St. Patrick's Day Parade - AHS Band.

**March 25th:** Math Club meeting.

**March 26th:** "Divorce Issues of Adolescents," sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

**March 28th:** AHS Jazz Band at Berklee School of Music, Boston. AHS Model Congress to the University of PA at Philadelphia.

**March 29th:** AHS Color Guard and Indoor Percussion at Dover, NH.

**March 30th:** AHS Indoor Percussion at UMass.

## Area Students Attain Dean's List At AIC

American International College in Springfield has announced that 323 students were named to the Dean's List for the fall 1997 semester. Students who qualified for the Dean's List are full-time undergraduate students with a grade point average of at least 3.3 out of 4.0 points.

Among those who attained Dean's List standing were the following area residents:

### \* From Agawam:

**Nelson G. Abdala**, a sophomore Criminal Justice major; **Heather J. Ackerman**, a sophomore Marketing major; **Cynthia T. Fontanilles**, a junior Psychology major; **Karen C. Horniak**, a sophomore majoring in Human Services; **William D. Robinson**, a junior Management and Technology major; and **Teresa Torsell**, a junior Management and Technology major.

### \* From Feeding Hills:

**Lisa Bruno**, a senior majoring in Secondary Education; **Lisa J. Davies**, a junior Nursing major; **Melanie A. Guillemette**, a sophomore Occupational Therapy major; **Frank R. Kozikowski**, a junior Management major; and **Lori B. O'Dea**, a freshman Pre-Physical Therapy major.

AIC is a private, coeducational college founded in 1885. The College offers more than 35 undergraduate programs in the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Psychology and Education, and the Divisions of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Nursing.

## Junior High To Conduct "Spring Parents Night"

The Agawam Junior High School will conduct its annual "Spring Parents' Night" on Monday evening, March 9th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

School Principal Kevin C. Littlefield states that all parents of seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to attend the annual conference night, which features brief meetings with teachers and staff members. Classroom secretaries will schedule five-minute appointments with individual teachers that evening.

Mr. Littlefield points out that "Spring Parents' Night" is an excellent opportunity for parents to visit the school, where they may review their child's academic progress.

## Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

**Monday, March 2nd:** Pepperoni-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and creamy dressing, chilled pears in syrup, milk.

**Tuesday, March 3rd:** Early release (no lunch served).

**Wednesday, March 4th:** Taco boat with cheese topping, lettuce and tomato, garnish, taco sauce, niblet corn, blueberry jello with topping, milk.

**Thursday, March 5th:** Roast turkey with gravy on whipped potato, seasoned carrots, whole wheat bread and butter, rosé applesauce, milk.

**Friday, March 6th:** Grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, oven potato puffs with catsup, chilled peaches or chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

## Essay Contest At Middle School To Begin March 9th

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is once again holding an essay contest for the Agawam Middle School fifth and sixth graders.

The contest will begin on Monday, March 9th. Registration forms will be passed out to the children at the school. Completed essays will be collected March 27th.

Please encourage your child to compete in this writing contest. A child's imagination can astound you.

The winners will be announced the week of April 27th, and prizes have yet to be determined.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

## Kindergarten Sign-Ups For Agawam Schools

Children who will be five years of age prior to October 1, 1998 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten in Agawam for the 1998-99 school year.

Parents of children who will be eligible for kindergarten are requested to contact the nearest elementary school as soon as possible.

Parents are encouraged to register their children prior to the last day of kindergarten screening, May 8, 1998.

**JACK DEVINE needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. Call Jack at 789-0053. If Jack is out, please leave a message on his machine.**

## Happy Birthday, Mandi



Love Ya,  
Nana

## Happy 13th Birthday, Jenine



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## Happy Sweet "16," Robin



Love,  
Mom & Ray





## Sports

# Round II Goes To AHS Over Minnechaug

## Thrilling 51-45 Win Again Gives Brownies Top Seed In Division I

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' basketball team beat defending state champ Minnechaug Regional last Thursday night at packed and near hysterical Kibbe Gym, 51-45. But there was so much more to this one than a basketball game.

The Brownies had waited almost three agonizing weeks to meet Minnechaug one more time in regular season play, because they had a debt to pay. They said very little - aware of the fact that excuses are like bellybuttons; everybody has one. They watched their foe win and win again. They watched the poisters perch the Falcons on the top rung of the local ladder. They heard the scribes say they were not as good as that foe.

After all, Minnechaug was the defending Western Mass. and state champions and was ranked ninth in the east.

In silent response, the locals bowed their heads in practice and worked hard, then worked even harder. Their games became a crusade, as the Brownies answered with wins of their own. It was intense, silent, like the quiet before the storm. We say quiet, because there is no calm in this story.

### A Clear Memory

The memory of that 54-28 loss to Minnechaug 25 days in the past was as clear as the sound of the Willie Nelson classic, "You Are Always On My Mind."

Indeed, the Falcons were on the minds of the Brownies. But there was no love lost in this rendition of that tune. Agawam simply lay in the weeds and waited.

This was a game as classic as Willie's song, except it wasn't played on vinyl, or compact disc, or a CD. It was played, with venom, on a hardwood floor. We saw the girls perform with as much in-your-face intensity as any time in the AHS gym. Why? Because it was a question and answer game.

The Brownies, along with the faithful, will never forget last season when Minnechaug, with the great All-American, Jillian Danker, beat them two out of three in the Western Mass. battle, to make their way to the state title.

The Brownie girls, along with Coach Lou Conte, felt the 1997 crown was their destiny. Thus, the question from the Falcons, "Are you as good as we are?" The answer from the Brownies, "You'd better believe it!"

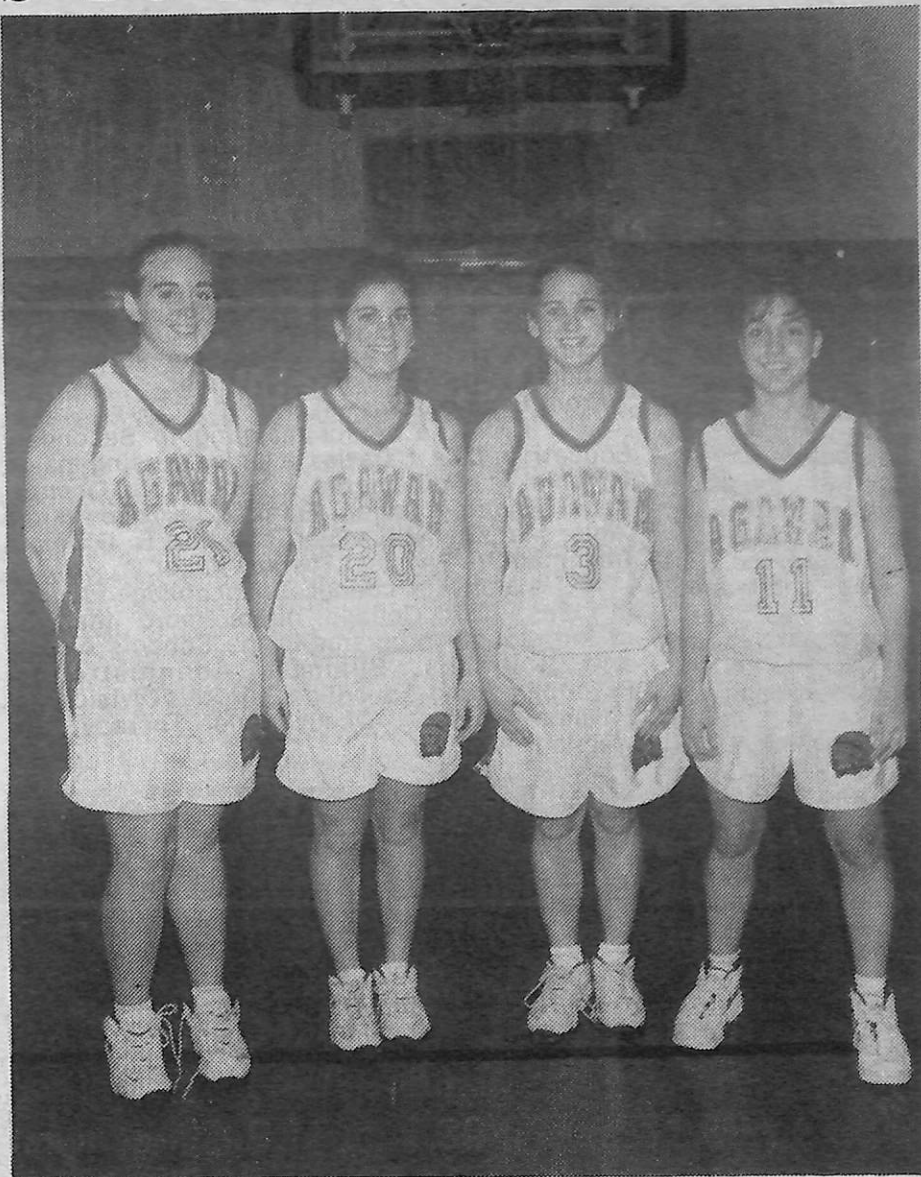
The battle was joined early on. There was no need for either team to feel each other out, since they'd been inside each other's heads for almost two seasons. The Brownies, realizing defense would win this one, started out in their press. Minnechaug, much bigger but not nearly as quick, was content to drop back and play man-to-man. With 3:30 gone, Agawam was up 6-2. It was obvious - the Brownies had an eye on Danker and to a lesser degree, her frontcourt teammates, center Maureen Leahy and forward Chrissy Girotti. It was all tied at 6-6 with 5:25 off the clock.

At that point, the Falcons had committed five turnovers to one for the hosts. Those miscues were mostly because the faithful, plus some fairly obnoxious leatherlungs in the stands, were making the place Tinnitus Heaven. Heck, even Cool Hand Luke's knees would have been knocking the way the place was rocking. Agawam junior forward Melissa Cote (excellent game) would say later that the crowd definitely put a charge into them.

### Locals Switch To Zone

Senior Amber Conte, known for her dead-eye ability from three-point land, drained one to make the score 9-6, Agawam, at the 8:43 mark. Then the

SEE GIRLS' HOOP - Page 38...



SENIOR CLASS MEMBERS of the Agawam High School girls' varsity basketball team were honored prior to the start of the Minnechaug Regional game on Thursday, February 19th. From left - Shaunna Hadden, Amber Conte, Kristen Patterson, and Vanessa Galluzzo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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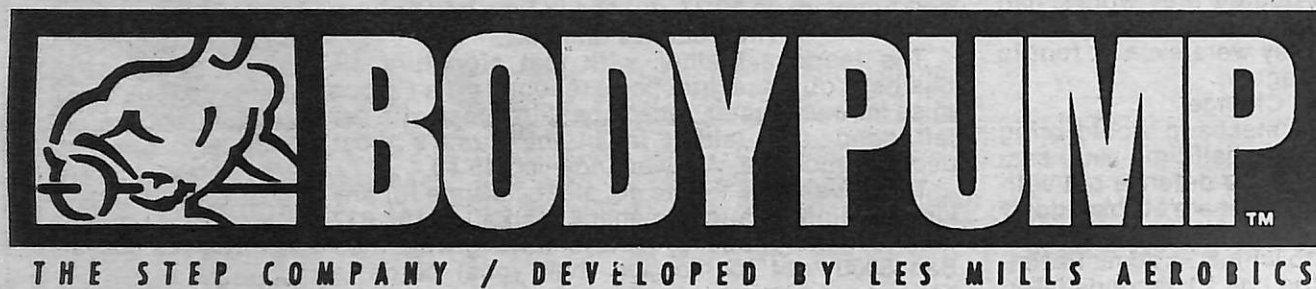
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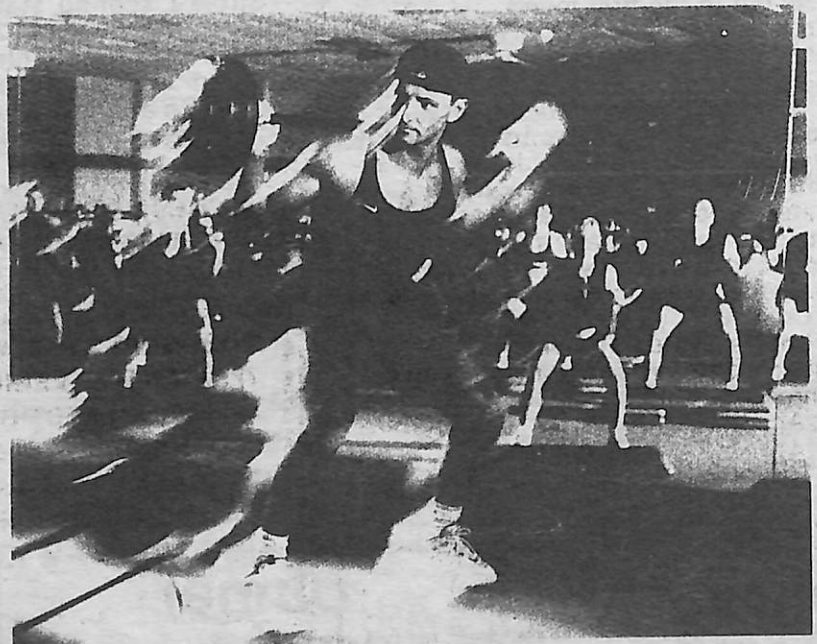
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**GIRLS' HOOP - from Page 36...**

Brownies switched into a zone. They increased their lead to 13-8, then got three more from Cote, who scored seven of her nine points in the first half on 3-4 shooting. The 16-8 score up on the board caught the sharp eyes of the Falcons.

To that end, they began to go with their bread and butter offense, Danker, Leahy, and Girotti, down low. Everyone knew it was coming. Agawam was ready as they switched into their double down defense.

The Minnechaug trees did get the ball. However, when they did, an Agawam arm or two or three always seemed to be in their face or on the ball. Most of those arms were owned by Cote, Conte, and center Pia Bertone-Gross. Out front, point guard Kristen Patterson's quickness enabled her to deflect some passes out of bounds.

Junior Barbara Maloni (21 points), who did not play the last time the two teams met, always the opportunist, was looking to score and drove the lane for two, upping the Agawam advantage to 18-8. Thirty seconds later, Danker laid one in to make it 18-10, Agawam.

There was 2:07 left on the clock when Patterson rebounded a Danker miss, went coast-to-coast, got hacked, got two free throws, and hit one. The teams traded hoops in the final seconds, with the Brownies taking a 23-14 lead into the locker room.

The last time they played, at Minnechaug, the Falcons led 28-17 at the intermission. That 14-point difference this time was due to Agawam's tenacious defense, which held Minnechaug to just 7-20 (35 percent) from the field. The visitors went 0-4 from the stripe. Agawam saw 10 field goals drop, including two three's out of 22 attempts (45 percent). They hit one of four from the line. Danker had 12 of Minnechaug's 14 points, most of which came off offensive rebounds.

The Falcons, as most figured they would, had an advantage on the boards with 13, as opposed to Agawam's eight. But they were even at four in the offensive rebound category.

**Time For A Change**

There was no doubt Minnechaug would bring out some changes after their half-time skull session. The Brownies trotted their defense out with them. Like the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Agawam went to work on offense from the get-go. They went up 29-15 with 3:34 gone. Patterson hit one of two from the line 20 seconds later, putting the Brownies up by 15.

The Falcons were fast becoming a frustrated bunch of birds. With 5:08 off the clock, they did not have a field goal on seven attempts. The Minnechaug misfortune suited the Brownies just fine. At the 11:04 mark, Patterson and Maloni had back-to-back steals. Patterson laid hers in for a 32-17 lead. Barbara missed two free throws off a foul, but notice had been served.

Minnechaug, in the first stages of shock, began

to come out of it and the true dogfight, to the joy of the Falcon faithful, commenced. Danker got their first field goal of the half at 9:56. Leahy, hit from down low, got fouled and hit the free throw at 9:32, making it 32-21, Brownies.

Bertone-Gross got two back on two free throws. The Brownies were in a full blown, full court trap press now. But Minnechaug, behind some good ball handling by their front court, broke it. Melissa Kowalski drained a three and brought her club to within nine, at 34-25. Then Danker, who had hard earned points all night, stole the ball and laid it home with 7:30 left. The faithful in brown and orange suddenly started to sweat. The board blinked, 34-27, their kids. They still had raw memories of the Falcons' devastating, come-from-behind wins last season (final regular season game and WMass final). Maloni, who would have 15 second-half points to go along with 21 for game, hit two from the line at 7:25 to bring her team up, 36-27. A big steal by Cote gave Agawam the ball at 6:32. Maloni got fouled on the ensuing offensive play, went to the line, and drained two more. (The junior guard would register 9-13 from the stripe in the second half.)

But there was a sense that the state champions were not going to allow their wings to be clipped. Four offensive boards on a loose rim ball got them two points. Agawam pressed. Minnechaug posted up. Leahy, after being fouled down low, hit two more from the line, making it 39-31, Agawam. Kowalski hit her second trey down the stretch on a rainbow from the left corner. Agawam's lead had shriveled to 39-34.

After a free throw and now down only 39-35, the Falcons swooped to the attack again. Maloni missed a jumper. Down the other end, they looked for Danker, who would have 21 points (9-19 fgs, 3-6 fts, 7 rebs, 1 steal). She took a pass in the paint with her back to the basket and in a fluid move that will get her many more points at Vanderbilt, spun and gently laid the ball home. With 3:27 left and Agawam up 39-37, gut check time had arrived.

**The Fearless Maloni...**

The fearless Maloni, with that signature all-business grimace, grabbed a rebound off a Falcon miss moments later, raced coast-to-coast with her left hand, and laid it in, in the game's most decisive moment. Agawam now led 45-40.

There was now 1:48 to go, plenty of time for any kind of Minnechaug comeback. And all of the 837 jammed into Kibbe gym, who were giving their Ban 5000, not to mention their vocal cords, a serious workout by now, knew it.

"We answered the call we all knew was coming. Everything we'd practiced in anticipation of this game came together. Melissa Cote had the great first half that set Minnechaug up. Amber played her best defense of the year all game long. Barb Maloni was just too fast for them, and Kristen was focused," Coach Conte smiled.

Kowalski fouled Patterson with just over a minute to play and was gone with her fifth foul. Patterson hit one of two. It was 46-40 now. Maloni

was fouled with 33 seconds left and hit two ends of the bonus. Another hero, totally unsung, was senior Shauna Hadden. She had a free throw opportunity with 30 seconds left. The Falcons had fouled her intentionally, thinking she couldn't handle the pressure. It was a bonus situation. Agawam was up 48-41. A first miss gave the ball back to the Falcons. A two- or three-point play down the other end would put them in striking distance.

Hadden calmly stepped to the line and drained both free throws. You could almost see Minnechaug's knees buckle. Even though the Falcons would score four more points, it was an Agawam show, capped off by one of the most electric plays you will ever see at any level. Minnechaug was looking to foul and went full court on the inbound pass. Agawam executed an inbounds pass, which came right out of a football playbook. Maloni, on the left wing and waiting in a full court passing deal, broke up, back, and released downcourt 10 feet in front of the timeline. She took the ball in full stride over her shoulder like Terry Glenn from Drew Bledsoe. Then, she bolted down the right wing.

A brilliant thing happened. Maybe Maloni was a little too far downcourt at the time to cut for the hoop. "She had it planned, all the way. Barb was intent on running out the clock," Conte said later.

She turned 360 degrees to her right, spun out, raced up the right side and cut to center court just under the timeline. Four Falcons were following her, trying to foul. Ten precious seconds vanished from the clock. She hit one of two. It was over.

Agawam won because they were better at the line in the second half, hitting 18 of 23 to Minnechaug's nine of 12. It made no difference that they were miserable from the field (5-12). Minnechaug was 10-27. Agawam played defense!

"We won this on defense. But isn't that the way we've always won games?" Cote said. "We worked hard as a team."

**AGAWAM INDIVIDUAL STATS:** Maloni - 21 pts, 6-12 fgs (41 percent), 9-13 fts (69 percent), 3 rebs, 2 steals; Conte - 10 pts, 4-7 fgs, including a 3 (57 percent), 1-2 fts; Cote - 9 pts, 4-6, including a 3 (66 percent), 6 rebounds, 3 off, 1 steal; Patterson - 7 pts, 1-10 fgs (1 percent), 5-8 fts (62 percent), 5 rebs, 2 off, 2 steals; Bertone-Gross, 2, 0-5 fgs, 2-2 fts, 2 rebs; Hadden - 2, 0-3 fgs, 2-2 fts.

**AGAWAM TEAM STATS:** fgs - 15-34, including two 3's (44 percent), fts 19-28 (67 percent), rebounds - 16, 5 off; Turnovers - 8; Points allowed off turnovers, 2.

**MINNECHAUG TEAM STATS:** fgs 17-48, including two 3's (35 percent), fts 9-14 (64 percent); Rebounds - 28, 13 off; Turnovers - 16; Points allowed off turnovers, 4.

**BROWNIE NOTES:** Agawam, because of the win, took the number one seed in the Girls' Division I Tournament. Minnechaug is the second seed. Agawam, this Saturday, will play the winner of the Sci-Tech/Westfield game at Kibbe Gym.

**Agawam Boys' Basketball Review...**

# AHS Boys' Hoop Looking To Much Better 1998-'99

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team finished its season with a 4-14 record, including a 1-7 slate in the Valley Wheel. Those numbers translated into not only a disappointing campaign, but no trip to the playoffs — a place they visited briefly last season before Holyoke High knocked them out in the first round.

Agawam's problems started on offense. "We couldn't put the ball in the hole. That's basically it," second-year Coach Gary Grumoli admitted. The coach, whose two-year record stands at 16-23, stressed that the team was going through a rebuilding year.

One of the things the team failed to do was make other teams play their game, which was slow down and set up. Instead, they were forced time and again to get into a track meet. Most times, the Brownies, though they made a great effort, couldn't keep up. "We had to control the tempo," Grumoli noted. "When we were able to do that, we either won or were in a position to win."

The coach noted that one bright spot on the offensive charts was 6'5" junior center Dave Strole. "Dave was a newcomer to the varsity. He learned as the season went along and kept getting better."

Strole's scoring stats seem to bear out what Grumoli said. He had 29 points in their first nine games for a 3.2 points a game average. But he stepped up in the second half of the season with 109 points and a 12.1 average. His high game was a 22-point performance in a 72-40 loss against Commerce.

The coach also thinks he's found a good one in junior Joe DiVirgilio, who came up from the junior varsity late in the season. "He impressed us enough to get a shot. He did well and we think he has a lot of promise as a point guard." DiVirgilio scored 14 points in their next-to-last game of the season — a 54-44 loss to playoff-bound Chicopee.

"In the end, on offense, we played a lot of

playground basketball. There was never much consistency," the coach noted.

**A Flaw That Will Need Attention...**

They had one glaring flaw that will need attention. "We couldn't rebound, either off the defensive or offensive boards," Grumoli said. "Every possession is important over the 32 minutes of a game. When you blow chances to control the ball, you blow your chances of getting a win."

Defensively, they tried man and zone in equal measures. Because they were caught in up-tempo situations, it was sometimes tough to set up the zone. "We also had a hard time making the right decisions up and down the floor, which hurt our defense," the coach added.

Agawam has some capable players coming back, including junior guard Marc Pedraza and juniors Dave Federico and Matt Albano. Brian St. Jean, who had a good junior varsity season, will also help, according to Grumoli.

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# Big Rich Feeley Hopes High-Scoring Brownies' Hockey Can Hit Playoff Groove

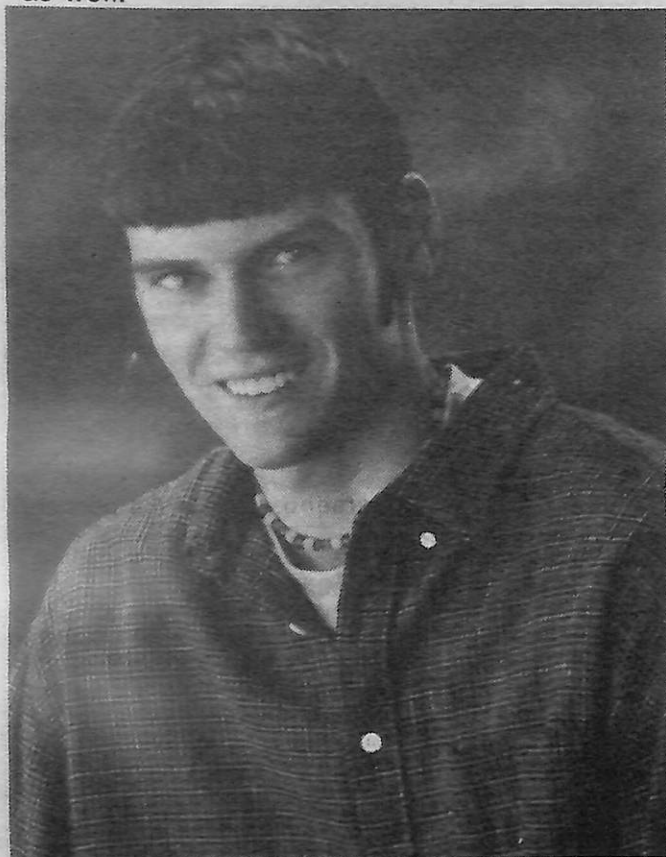
by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

One of the prime reasons the Agawam High hockey team is going back to the playoffs is senior forward Rich Feeley. Recently he took some time out to talk about himself and his days at AHS.

Rich is hard to miss on the ice. He is 6'4" tall and that's big for a hockey player at any level. And when he straps on the skates, he towers to 6'6". He is also a solid 195 pounds, which gives him some serious weight to throw around if anyone is foolish enough to try to check him. He's 17 years-old. His 18th birthday falls on May 19th.

Rich has spent four years at AHS. His present course load includes U.S. history, journalism (he's on the entertainment staff of the school newspaper), modern literature, and advanced math. He has two top courses, U.S. history, because he enjoys the past glories of the country, and English. "I enjoy writing and reading just about anything I can," he said. His favorite teachers are Joanne Brown (English) and Richard Joseph (science).

He has been accepted at six colleges - Quinipiac, Assumption, Sacred Heart, Mass. College of Liberal Arts, Fitchburg State, and UMass. Wherever he goes, he stresses that he'll be heavy into academics and hopes to give hockey a shot as well.



**RICH FEELEY** had 14 goals and 14 assists for the Agawam High hockey Brownies in the 1997-1998 season.

*Best local news...*

Hockey is the only sport he plays at AHS. During the 1997-1998 regular season, he scored 14 goals and had 14 assists for 28 points, which puts him in ninth place among the Fay Division point leaders.

His top moments in his career include winning the Fay Division last year (they tied for the title this season with East Longmeadow), making the Western Mass. playoffs, and scoring a hattrick against West Side last year.

The team will go into the playoffs as the sixth seed. The top seed is West Springfield, who beat the Brownies 5-0 two weeks ago. "The tournament will be an uphill battle for us," Rich noted. "But we're a hard-nosed hockey team. We run three lines, which helps. I'd like to see us reach the finals and maybe play West Side again."

His favorite food is lasagna with lots of cheese. Green is his top color.

A Pathfinder is his favorite vehicle.

Larry Bird is his favorite pro athlete. "He wasn't the most naturally talented guy. Larry worked very hard and it showed in the way he played," Rich smiled. The Philadelphia Flyers top the list of his top teams.

When he relaxes, he likes to do it at a friend's house or at the hockey rink.

Casual is his style in clothes; jeans, shirts, and sweaters. He takes a size 15 Nike athletic shoe. He wears \$200 Rydall skates when he takes to the ice.

He likes many forms of music, including classic rock. The 'Doors' are among his favorite groups.

ESPN's "Sports Center" is tops on the tube for Rich. "Slapshot" gets his nod for top big screen flick.

His dad's name is Richard. His mom's name is Ellen. He has a sister, Tara, who plays field hockey for the Brownies.

He says he looks up to his mom and dad because they are both hard-working people.

When his days are done at AHS, Rich wants to be remembered in this way: "As a nice guy, easygoing, who can get along with everyone."



**RICH FEELEY** is an imposing force on skates. He's a 6'4" forward.

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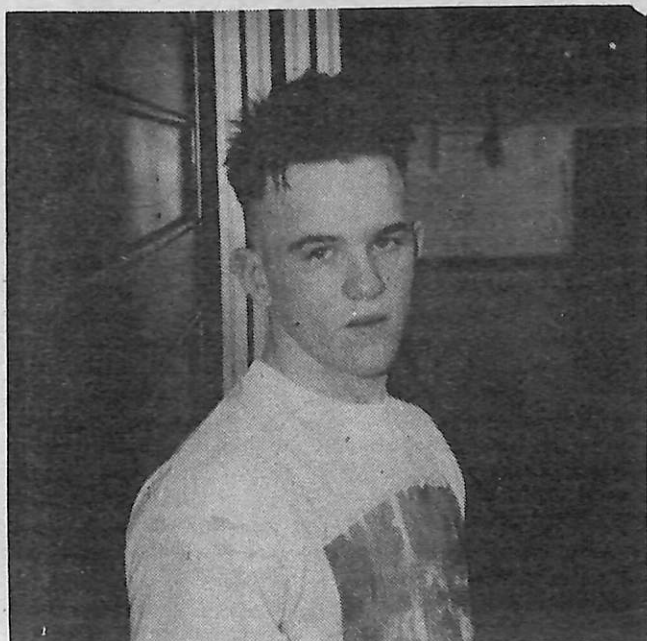
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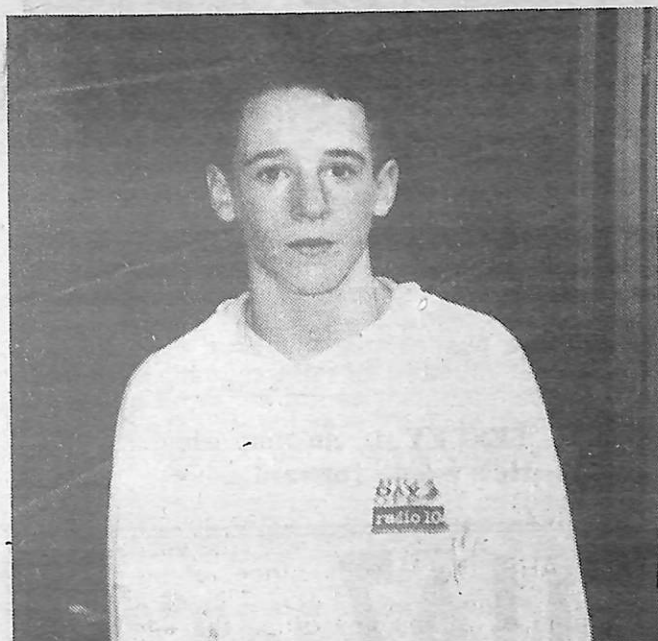
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## Getting It Right!!!



IN TOP PHOTO, MARK ENGLEMAN was the Western Mass. schoolboy wrestling champ in the 145's for Agawam High; in photo below, DAVE MOORE was the WMass champ in the 103's.



## AHS Cheerleaders In Two Competitions This Weekend

The Agawam varsity cheerleaders will be competing at the Pioneer Valley Cheerleading Competition on Friday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m., at Ludlow High School, as well as the Western Mass. Cheerleading Championship on Sunday at Chicopee High School, at 2:00 p.m.

Support from Agawam fans and friends would be truly appreciated.

# Brownie Hockey Gets 6th Seed; To Face Minnechaug On Monday

by Dave Rollins  
Sports Editor

For the second straight season, the Agawam High hockey team will be in the Western Mass. playoffs. They go in with a 13-7 record (8-2 in the Fay Division) as the sixth seed. This year, they were co-champs in their division, tied with East Longmeadow, who beat them early on, 5-3.

The Brownies first see action Monday night, March 2nd, with an 8:00 p.m. game at the West Side Olympia against third seeded Minnechaug. The Falcons beat them December 27th when Agawam was struggling. Minnechaug plays in the tough Berry Division with the likes of Cathedral, Ludlow, and West Side.

Being the sixth seed out of 10 teams means just that. The committee doesn't think you are overly impressive, nor do they think you can't pull an upset or two.

Of those other eight seeds not mentioned, the Brownies have beaten number five Longmeadow (2-1), number nine Comp (5-0), and number 10 Easthampton (7-3).

They lost to top seed West Springfield (5-0), second seed Ludlow (3-1), fourth ranked Westfield (5-3), and number five East Longmeadow (5-3). They did not play seventh seeded Mount Greylock.

It's possible Agawam may be heading to another showdown with West Side. They'll have their work cut out for them if that is, indeed, going to happen.

### Roller Coaster Ride

The Brownies had a roller coaster ride on their way to the playoffs. They started out the season with three straight losses, before breaking into the win column with an 11-0 flogging of Fay Division foe South Hadley on December 30th.

They had a six-game win streak and a 6-3 record going into a game January 8th against Chicopee. The Pacers snapped the streak with a 7-5 victory. That setback was the start of a two-game losing streak, which they snapped with a 2-1 win over Longmeadow. Powerhouse Ludlow beat them two days later, 3-1.

Then the Brownies began to reach their stride. They won four straight before coming up against another powerhouse, West Springfield. The Terriers beat them 5-0 in an emotional battle on February 12th. Agawam finished out the season with a 9-0 shutout of Greenfield (who beat them in the first round of last year's playoffs) and a 7-3 decision over playoff-bound Easthampton.

Agawam put the puck in the net 119 times this year for a 5.9 average goals per game. That total is the highest number of goals by any team in Western Mass., except for Ludlow in the Berry Division. The Lions ended up with 168 (8.4 gpg).

The reason for that production has to do with the fact that the Brownies have eight players among the top 20 point-getters in the Fay Division. East Longmeadow and Chicopee each have four. Jay Malanson leads the way with 15 goals and 26 assists for 41 points, which puts him fourth in the division. The sophomore center, who had one four-goal game and three two-goal outings

during the year, anchors the first line. His 26 assists are tops on the team. He's aggressive, quick, and though he may not be the biggest kid on the ice, he can give and take the body with anyone.

### A Veteran Of Pycko's Program

Junior forward Andy Radwanski has 35 points on 17 goals and 18 assists, including two four-goal games and two where he got a deuce. Andy is a forward on the second line and a veteran of Coach Fran Pycko's demanding program.

Another key scorer is third line forward Tony LeClair, who had a hat-trick to go along with 12 goals and 17 assists. LeClair, just a freshman, is learning and developing quickly.

Rich Feeley is the left wing on the first line. The big senior, at 6'4", has one of the most powerful slapshots in the league. His 14 goals and 14 assists for 28 points show him to be capable of either scoring or setting up a score.

Sophomore forward Dave Gusek has seven goals and 21 assists (second on the team) for 28 points. He's a smooth skater who is also a veteran of last year's playoff group.

Sophomore Brian Pagella is the right wing on the first line. He complements Malanson and Feeley by digging after the puck in the corners and also with his aggressive checking.

Defenseman Austin Kimball (12 goals, 12 assists) is another threat. He has a big slapshot from either point. He is the enforcer on the ice and leads the team in penalty minutes. They'll look to his senior leadership in the tournament.

Tony Kosinski, a junior, centers the second line. He can score (11 goals), or help someone else do it (11 assists). He's an active and accurate passer who also forechecks well.

### Lowest Goals Against In Fay Division

Despite their seven losses, Agawam was relatively stingy in the goals against department, giving up 53, which was the lowest in the Fay Division. Kimball had a lot to do with it, but he is backed up by some defenders who shine in their own right. Veteran junior Josh Sprague will hit anything that moves and is a good penalty killer.

Adam Sprague, Josh's brother, a freshman, plays on the first line defense, next to Kimball. He has speed and aggressiveness and isn't afraid to mix it up. He's complemented by sophomore Brian Gilhooly, who stands out as a penalty killer.

Two forwards, junior veteran Greg Jubinville (5 goals, 6 assists) and freshman Rob Parker (4 goals, 5 assists), are more defensive minded. They'll break up many impending rushes by the opposition before they get started. They also provide steady service as penalty killers.

Of course, the last line of defense in hockey is the goaltender. Agawam has one of the best around in senior Chris Hearn. He gave up 46 goals in 16 games during the regular season for a 2.6 goals against average. He recorded three shutouts.

Backing him up will be junior Mike Schmidt (3 games, 4 goals, 1.3 ga, and 2 shutouts) along with sophomore Derek Mercadante.

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## AHS Boys' Varsity Ski Team In Final Contest Of The Season

On Wednesday, February 11th, the Agawam High boys' varsity ski team competed in the Western Mass. Individuals Competition at Berkshire East. The event was an all-day competition.

Each of the boys had the opportunity to ski in a giant slalom race in the morning and a slalom race in the afternoon. The results of the giant slalom race, along with a listing of those who placed in the top 50 of the 200 racers, were as follows:

Stephen Charest, 25.90 (fifth); Michael DeFilipi, 28.23 (27th); Michael Savioli, 28.41 (30th); Jack Pearson, 28.81 (37th); Jay Flood, 29.73; Daryl St. Laurent, 30.90; Simon Tyrburg, 32.91; Brandon Donovan, 32.44; Sean Devall, 32.61; Bill Campana, 34.07; and Ryan Progulske, D.N.F.

The team seemed to be stronger in the giant slalom event not only on this day, but also throughout the season. Medals were awarded to the top 10 racers in the event. Stephen Charest was awarded a fifth-place medal.

The afternoon results in the slalom were as follows:

Stephen Charest, 36.45 (12th); Ryan Progulske, 36.70 (14th); Daryl St. Laurent, 43.45 (41st); Jay Flood, 44.68 (49th); Jack Pearson, 45.20; Brandon Donovan, 52.02; Sean Devall, 53.43; Mike DeFilipi, 67.79; Bill Campana, 67.93; Mike Savioli, D.N.F.; and Simon Tyrburg, D.N.F.

The team found this event a little more challenging than the earlier race of the day. No medals were taken home for this event, but they still had some great times overall.

The other awards that were given that day were for the top 10 combined times on the mountain in each division. Stephen Charest took home a ninth-place medal for his times in the two events in the A Division.

\*\*\*

Rob Santaniello came along for the day to cheer on the team. He took on the duty of a gatekeeper for the day, since his injury from earlier in the season kept him out of the competition.

Kacy Progulske was also on the mountain to cheer his brother, Ryan, and the team, but he did not race. The other two members of the team that were missed that day were Adam Escobar and Rob Fitzgerald.

The parents helped to provide nourishment to the racers during, between, and after the events. The Agawam team had one of the best feasts on the mountain that day.

The boys wish to thank all the parents who provided such wonderful food. They also wish to thank those who attended the event, and to thank them for all their support not only on individual day, but for the whole season.



**BASKETBALL COMEDIAN** Sayeed "Rainbow" Muntaqim, along with the rest of the Harlem Rockets, will be at Agawam High School on Wednesday, March 4th, at 7:00 p.m. to face the "All Stars" (local officials, students, town residents, and faculty members who are brave enough to take to the "court").

*Best local news - AAN!*

## "The Rainbow Man" Will Join The Harlem Rockets At AHS

The top comedian in the Northeast with 17 years of comedy basketball experience has cast his lot as a free agent to join the well-established Harlem Rockets. His name is none other than Sayeed "Rainbow" Muntaqim.

The Harlem Rockets have rocketed into fame by elevating their program two-fold by adding not one but two comedians to join the Rockets. The second comedian is "Jamming" Jay Griffin.

Fans may be able to catch the electricity in the air when the two newly-acquired sensational comedians appear with the rest of the Fabulous Harlem Rockets at Agawam High School against the "All Stars" on Wednesday, March 4th, at 7:00 p.m.

"The Rainbow Man," 6'6", really enjoys his profession as the King of Comedy. He will make you laugh continuously throughout the game with his unbound vitality, playfulness, and energy, and he contributes to the team's dazzling display of basketball razzmatazz with his side-splitting antics.

Sayeed acquired the name of "Rainbow" when he was playing for the Harlem Wizards, because of his high-arching, long-range jumpshot. In addition, "Rainbow" will try a shot that is one of the hardest shots ever attempted in basketball.

No, he is not shot out of the cannon. The most difficult shot will be attempted during the fourth quarter. The fans will be in for a surprise, because he usually makes this shot once every other night.

For the record, "Rainbow" graduated from John Jay College in New York City with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. In fact, Rainbow is the lead scorer and rebounder in the history of John Jay College. He was the first basketball player elected to the school's Hall of Fame.

General Manager George Mitchell is proud and honored to have a fine young gentleman like Sayeed "Rainbow" Muntaqim join the Harlem Rockets. He will be an inspiration to the entire team, and its organization. Sayeed was signed to a long-term Harlem Rockets contract.

Fans will be in for a surprise when the two newly-acquired comedians join forces with the rest of the Harlem Rockets.

Tickets for this basketball extravaganza can be purchased in advance from Ms. McSweeney's office at AHS, the Mayor's office, or by calling Joann McGeoghan at 786-1982. Tickets can also be purchased at the box office the day of the game. This event is being sponsored by the Agawam High School PTSO.

Don't miss the "Rainbow's" hilarious clowning antics. He will entertain you to the fullest, from start to finish. He alone is worth the price of admission.

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## Lacrosse Clinics Being Offered For Both Boys And Girls

Lacrosse is the newest varsity sport at Agawam High School, and it is the fastest growing sport in the world.

This is your chance to learn the basics of lacrosse, catching, throwing, cradling, and shooting. You do not need any experience.

Varsity coaches Cindy Grieve and Nick St. George will conduct the clinics along with some members of the varsity teams.

The clinics will be held at the Agawam High School gymnasium and are open to all students in grades five through eight. The girls' clinic will be held on March 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and the boys' clinic will be held on March 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The cost for the week is \$20, with the money going to the lacrosse booster clubs to help defray the cost for banquets, gifts, and extras not covered in the school budget.

Registration forms may be picked up at Agawam Middle School and Agawam Junior High School. Registration will take place at the door at 5:30 p.m. on March 2nd and March 9th.

## Agawam Parks & Rec Is Taking Applications For Summer Jobs

The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications for summer employment. Possible positions include camp director, camp specialist, camp counselor, camp nurse, pool director, head lifeguard, water safety instructor, lifeguard, and tennis instructor.

Applicants must be 16 years or older to be eligible for employment.

Applications and brief job descriptions are available at the Recreation Office, 760 Cooper St., Agawam. Application deadline for camp or pool director is April 1, 1998; all other positions, the deadline is April 15, 1998.

For more information, call the Agawam Recreation Department at 821-0514.

The Town of Agawam is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.

## NovaCare Rehab To Present "Golf 98"

NovaCare Outpatient Rehabilitation & Fitness First present "Golf 98" to be held Tuesday, March 3rd at Fitness First Health Club in Feeding Hills at 7:00 p.m.

The presentation will include promotional items, a raffle, and door prizes. Featured speakers will include Dr. John Corsetti, MD, of New England Orthopedic Surgeons, "Common Injury and Prevention," Jim Vernadakis BS, PTA, NovaCare Outpatient Rehabilitation, "Specific Stretching & Flexibility," Barbara Vinciguerra MS, General Manager of Fitness First, "Swing Easy, Hit Hard," Daril Pacinella, Head Pro at Wilbraham Country Club, "Swing Tips," and Cindy Johnson of Nevada Bob's, "Latest Equipment Developments."

Free limited seating is available. Call 786-1460.

## Daggett Gymnasts At USA Sectional Meet In South Hadley

Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics qualified 12 girls to compete in a USA Gymnastics Massachusetts sectional meet held at South Hadley High School on February 15th.

In level nine, Junior A, Noel Marquez of Enfield continued her comeback from injury by winning the gold on vault (8.60), floor (8.825), and all-around (34.50). Agawam's Brionne Lancour was right behind her teammate in second (33.80), and also won the gold on the uneven bars (8.95).

In Junior B, Sarah Liebowitz was second on all events and the all-around (34.20). Lissa Bramley captured the third spot (32.20).

Level 10, Junior A was a gold rush for Lauren Powell of Agawam, as she took first on all events and the all-around (32.55).

\*\*\*

The level eight, 11-12 age group had two Daggett girls competing, with Karen Christoferson taking first on bars (8.80) and silver all-around (33.80). Leigha Hancock of West Suffield also had an outstanding meet, placing fourth (33.175).

In the 13-14 age group, Agawam's Andrea Babbin was rewarded for her hard work with a first-place finish in the all-around (33.95). Other great scores in this group were Devon Ehret (33.05), Lisa DiRosa (32.00), Paula Ballentine (31.60), and Whitney Quist (30.25).

In all, 10 young ladies qualified for the Massachusetts State Championship to be held in the spring.

## Four Daggett Gymnasts Travel To Cherry Valley, MA

Four girls from Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics traveled to Cherry Valley, MA, to compete in a USA Gymnastics Massachusetts sectional meet on February 22nd.

In the morning session, Caitlin Ranstrom of Agawam and Jen Stack of Enfield competed in level six, 7-9 age group.

Caitlin had an 8.65 on beam (fourth) and 30.80 all-around. Jen took first on vault (9.05), second on beam (8.85), and finished third all-around (33.75).

In the afternoon session, Elizabeth Clark of Agawam won the silver on vault with a 9.15.

Rebekah Humphrey's 9.0 on beam was good for the bronze, and she finished fifth overall with a 32.8.

Jen Stack qualified for the State Championship.

## Pioneer Sportsmen Club To Conduct Turkey Shoots

The Pioneer Sportsman Club will be conducting turkey shoots for six weeks starting Sunday, March 1st.

The shoots will begin each Sunday at 12:00 noon.

*Best local news...*

## Racquetball Tourney And Aerob-A-Thon At Fitness First

Exercise enthusiasts are invited to participate in a variety of activities during the 12th Annual Children's Miracle Network Racquetball Tournament and Aerob-A-Thon to be held March 6th-8th at Fitness First in Feeding Hills.

All proceeds will benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

"This year's special weekend will include activities for all ages," said Paula Welker, owner of Fitness First.

The festivities will kickoff with a new event for seniors on Friday, March 6th. A Senior Water Noodle Race will be held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. where senior swimmers will scramble to the finish line atop their water noodle.

This year's annual Aerob-A-Thon will take place on Saturday, March 7th, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Anyone with a pledge of \$25 may participate, and pledges of \$50 or more will receive a souvenir shirt, sport bottle, lunch, and buffet dinner that evening.

Children can dive for "Coins for a Cure" on Sunday, March 8th, at 11:00 a.m. Coins will be collected throughout the weekend to be donated to the Children's Miracle Network.

Players in the three-day Racquetball Tournament open divisions will compete for cash prizes and participants in other divisions will compete for new racquets. Everyone who registers for the tournament will be given a tournament t-shirt and free refreshments throughout the weekend.

For more information about the racquetball tournament and aerobathon, or to receive an entry form or pledge sheet, call the Children's Miracle Network at 784-4111, or Fitness First at 786-1460.

## Agawam Parks & Rec To Sponsor Bicycle Maintenance Class

The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department will sponsor a bicycle maintenance and repair class on Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Agawam High School.

This class is for adult/child pairs who will learn flat repair, dismounting and mounting tires, locating and repairing leaks, break repair and adjustment, cleaning and proper lubrication, and adjusting bike fit to the rider.

Those attending should bring their bicycle (one per pair), tube patching kit, tool box, and any needed replacement parts.

Instructor is Joe Shaer. Cost is \$20 per pair. Registration is now being accepted at the Recreation Office. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, March 12th at 4:00 p.m.

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# Friday Bingo

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## Featherlite Modifieds Rolling Into Riverside On March 28th-29th

Riverside Park Speedway will celebrate its 50th year of auto racing with an action packed schedule. The NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour rolls into town March 28th-29th with the PEPSI 200 at Riverside Park.

"We are going to open and close racing in New England," said Director of Auto Racing Joe Lewandoski. Riverside Park will close its season with the Fall Classic on October 31st-November 1st. Lewandoski is confident fans will receive a great value for their dollar at the popular quarter mile track.

The schedule features 44 events, including three motorcycle events, and two days of Rodeo. Fans will have the chance to see everything from six year-olds participating in Quarter Midget racing, to the fastest race cars on four wheels when the ISMA Supermodifieds make their first appearance in New England April 18th.

Other schedule highlights include the NASCAR Busch North Series race on May 2nd, the Bud Riverside 500 on May 23rd, Triple 50's Summer-time Madness on July 21st, and the Marathon Thrills and Spills Enduro Series taking place throughout the season. Budweiser will also sponsor the Bud Triple Crown Series.

Tired of watching four-wheeled competition? The American Motorcycle Association (AMA) will bring its flat truck motorcycles to Riverside on July 10th and August 21st. The AMA will return to Riverside for the Stadium Motocross on September 12th.

For more information, contact Jeremy Davidson at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3341.

## Reggie Ruggiero To Enter Racing Season Looking For Prestigious 100th Win

Starting with the PEPSI 200 NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour race on Sunday, March 29th, Reggie Ruggiero will count down the wins until he reaches his 100th win at Riverside Park Speedway.

Ruggiero enters this season, Riverside Park Speedway's 50th year, with 96 modified feature wins at Riverside Park under his belt.

Despite the magnitude of this accomplishment, Ruggiero remains modest. "I never really paid any attention to it until last year," says Ruggiero. "Somebody gave me a program with a list of the all-time modified winners at Riverside, and I was like, 'Wow! I had 86 wins!'"

Ruggiero has raced at Riverside Park since 1976, and captured his first win late in that season. Over 22 consecutive winning seasons, Ruggiero moved to the top of the list at Riverside Park. Along the way, he passed names like Bill Greco, Richie Evans, Jocko Maggiamo, Bob Polverari, Ed Flemke, Mike Stefanik, and Geoff Bodine.

Having spent the past 13 seasons on the NASCAR Modified Tour, Ruggiero only wishes he could have won more championships. Ruggiero won Track Championships at Riverside Park in 1979, 1984, and 1988.

He says he "really would have liked to have been able to win the most championships," but Ruggiero still has a lot to look forward to in 1998. Ruggiero has teamed up with new owner Tony Moffo to race in 1998. "We've got all the right equipment, two new cars, and all the right guys," says Ruggiero of his 1998 team.

Reggie Ruggiero's 96 career feature wins at Riverside Park puts him in a class all his own. The

only active drivers on the all-time Riverside Park modified win list that even approach Ruggiero's mark are turning laps on the Busch North Series and the NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour full-time.

Jerry Marquis of Broad Brook, Connecticut may have to spend a few weekends away from the Busch North Series to reach Ruggiero. Marquis is the second highest among active drivers on the list Ruggiero so clearly dominates. Marquis has 38 modified feature wins at Riverside Park Speedway.

"Reggie Ruggiero is the Richard Petty of Riverside Park Speedway and we are very fortunate to have the winningest active asphalt modified driver racing here at the park," says Riverside Park Speedway Director of Auto Racing Joe Lewandoski.

Chris Kopec of Ware, MA is 20th on the list with 14 Riverside Park modified feature wins. "I enjoy racing against Reggie," says Kopec. "I learned a lot from him when I started racing at Riverside Park." Kopec said he admires Ruggiero for coming back to Riverside Park when his schedule allows. "Some guys just don't want to come back, but (Reggie) always does. He just enjoys being there on Saturday nights."

Kopec, who enjoys racing at Riverside Park because "it keeps you sharp," says, "Reggie Ruggiero has earned a lot of respect from a lot of people in racing." Ruggiero and his new team can be seen in action when the Modified Tour opens at Riverside Park Speedway on March 28th-29th. The PEPSI 200 Modified Tour race will be held on Sunday, March 29th.

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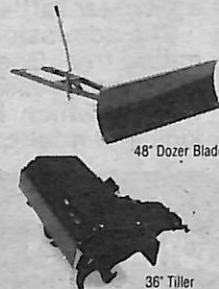
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## Bay West Panthers In Post-Season In "Squirt" B Division

On Tuesday, February 17th, the Bay West Panthers opened their playoffs against Franklin County Hockey Association to begin their quest to represent Western Mass. in the Squirt "B" division in Boston.

The game started off with the play going back and forth in each offensive ends. The Panthers came close on a two-on-one rush as the Franklin County goalie made an excellent save on a shot by Mike Brouillette. The defense also was clicking as Matt Footit made a nice play to break up a Franklin County opportunity.

Matt Woodward also made an excellent play to break up a Franklin County two-on-one break. The second period started with the offense starting to put on the pressure as Anthony Santinello, David Suchy, and Mike Brouillette took good shots on goal.

The pressure finally paid off at 10:07 of the period as Ryan Harlow (assisted by Jon Wagner and Matt Footit) found the back of the net to give Bay West a 1-0 lead to close out the second period.

The third period started with Ed Gaiser making a fine defensive play to keep Franklin County off the scoreboard. Alex Demers also showed excellent hustle to break up a Franklin County rush up the ice. Franklin County finally scored to knot the game at 1-1. The opposition started putting the heat on, but Tony Boido robbed Greenfield on an excellent glove save.

The game went into overtime as Franklin County came out quickly with the offensive pressure, but Tony Boido kept shutting the door of the goal. Bay West then started taking over with a bevy of shots to pepper the Franklin County goalie. The pressure finally paid off with 27 seconds left in the overtime period as Michael O'Neil (assisted by Mike Brouillette) scored the game-winner to give the Panthers a 2-1 win.

The Panthers' next opponent was a tough Holy Name squad. The first period was mostly dominated by Bay West with Matt Footit, Adam Corbin, and Anthony Santinello taking good shots.

But Holy Name broke the ice to take a 1-0 lead. The second period started with Holy Name scoring quickly to take a 2-0 advantage. Bay West then turned on the burners as Matt Footit and Ed Gaiser took excellent wrist shots just missing the goal, followed by Mike O'Neil also getting a good opportunity.

Joey Zmuda and Alex Demers made exceptional defensive plays to keep the Panthers in the game. The third period was all Bay West as the Panthers scored twice within a minute on goals by Anthony Santinello (assisted by Ed Gaiser and David Suchy) and David Suchy (assisted by Anthony Santinello and Matt Woodward) to tie the score at 2-2.

In the overtime period, David Suchy and Adam Corbin came close to putting the game away, but the Holy Name goaltender came up with the big saves. The game then went to a shootout with Jon Wagner putting the game away on a good move to slide the puck into the net for the win.

The Bay West Panthers were then matched up against the Bay West Glaciers in the finals. The Glaciers started out quickly as J. Baurassa scored for a 1-0 lead (assisted by T.J. Hamilton).

The Glaciers continued the pressure, but Tony Boido came up with an excellent glove to save to keep the game close. The Panthers started turning on the offense as they had back-to-back power plays, but couldn't capitalize.

The Panthers did hit paydirt with 23 seconds left in the period as Matt Footit fed a beautiful pass to Jon Wagner, who banged in the goal from the corner of the net to tie the game at 1-1.

The second period started with the Glaciers putting on fierce offensive pressure but Tony Boido would come up with some excellent saves. The Bay West Glaciers' pressure finally paid off as T. Bokuniewicz scored an unassisted goal to give the Glaciers a 2-1 lead. The Panthers were then put into a two-man, short-handed situation that resulted in a Glaciers' powerplay goal by Josh Edwards (assisted by A. Ciborowski and M. Landry).

The game ended with the Bay West Glaciers winning, 3-1, sending them to Boston to represent Western Mass. in the Squirt B division. The Panthers are to be congratulated on an outstanding effort by the entire team.

On Sunday, Feb. 22nd, the Panthers visited the Twin Rinks in Enfield to face WTM. Bay West didn't waste any time in turning on the offensive burners as David Suchy, Mike Brouillette, and Adam Corbin had excellent shots.

Jon Wagner found an opening to put the Panthers up 1-0 with the assists going to David Suchy and Joey Zmuda. The second period started with the Bay West goaltender Tony Boido making an excellent save.

Then the Panthers went on a scoring tear as Ryan Harlow (assisted by Mike Brouillette and Jon Wagner) to give Bay West a 2-0 lead. Adam Corbin followed with some great moves to skate past three WTM defenders, only to be foiled by a good save by the WTM goaltender.

Ryan Harlow followed with his second goal (unassisted) to make the score 3-0. David Suchy also joined the goal parade (assists to Ryan Harlow and Jon Wagner) to extend the lead to 4-0. The final goal of the game was scored by Anthony Santinello (assists by Adam Corbin and Matt Woodward), making the score 5-0.

The third period started with WTM putting on relentless pressure only to be stoned by Tony Boido, who recorded the shutout.



## Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis  
Outdoor Writer

### Winter Cod Trip Was Fun Outing

A hardy group of Agawam fishermen joined about 30 other anglers for last Saturday's cod fishing trip aboard the Gail Frances out of Galilee, Rhode Island.

Anticipation was high during the two-hour trip to the edge of Coxes Ledge. Rough seas and a brisk wind greeted us on the offshore grounds. The weather cooperated with us as far as temperatures were concerned, and it was not necessary to break out the "arctic" clothing that I had brought along.

The heated railings on the boat were a welcome "nice touch," though. With the wind whipping up to 30 miles per hour, wet hands could get rather chilly.

The fish were not too cooperative. Several in our party did manage to land some legal-sized cod and a mixed bag of other fish. Almost everyone caught fish, but there was an abundance of sub-legal fish.

Despite the rather slow fishing action, a good time was enjoyed by almost everyone, and it helped to break up the winter monotony.

### SPORTSMAN'S SHOW WELL ATTENDED

Area sportsmen flocked to the Springfield Sportsman's Show at the Big E last weekend. An assortment of guides, manufacturers, tackle shops, and gunmakers filled both the Better Living Center and the Young Building on the Big E grounds.

The Springfield Show is more than just a sportsman's show; it serves as a "cabin fever" remedy for many of us. After attending three of the four days of the show, and getting out on a cod trip, it was a busy weekend. It also signaled the approach of spring!

The Sportsman's Show is kind of the turning point for many outdoorsmen, because it also means that there are less than 30 days left of winter!

### LUNKER TROUT DERBY COMING UP

The Mawaga Club will be holding its annual Lunker Trout Derby on March 29th. This is an event that is open to the angling public as well as club members.

Details and ticket information will follow in the coming weeks.

*Best local sports...*

## WMass Fly Fishermen To Hold Workshop

The Western Massachusetts Fly Fishermen will conduct their 26th annual Fly Fishermen's Workshop on Monday, March 16th, at the Polish-American Citizen's Club on East Street in Ludlow.

The special guest will be noted guide and fly fishermen Jack Smola. Jack will present a slide show and commentary on fishing local waters. The streams to be shown are the Deerfield, Swift, and Farmington Rivers.

There will be displays by area tackle dealers and manufacturers, as well as fly-tying demos and a monster raffle.

The admission is \$5, with children under 12 admitted free. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

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**HELP WANTED:** We have the perfect p/t job. If you are available Monday-Friday, start between 6:00 a.m. & 7:00 a.m., we want to talk to you. No weekends. Office cleaning in Agawam area. Paid holiday & training. Call (860) 741-0827. EOE.

**NURSERY SUPERVISORS AND FARM LABOR:** Large wholesale nursery in West Suffield, CT, needs self-motivated, full-time crew leaders. Plant knowledge helpful. Training begins now for busy spring season to perform a variety of farming duties with landscape plants and ornamental shrubs. Farm equipment operators also needed. 401K Plan and health insurance available. Apply in person or call for an appointment at the Robert Baker Companies, 1700 Mountain Road, West Suffield, CT, (860) 668-7371.

### FOR RENT

**FOR RENT:** Agawam — 2 bedroom duplex. 1½ baths, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Laundry connections in cellar. 789-0356.

### TAG SALES

**MULTI TAG AND CRAFT SALE:** You have to see it to believe it. Something for everyone. 349 Cooper Street — Italian Sporting Club. March 6th & 7th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### FLEA MKT.

**AGAWAM'S J.R.S. FLEA MARKET:** On Suffield Street (Route 75) behind McDonald's. Largest flea market in New England. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, call 786-2850.

### CARS FOR SALES

**BRIAN MOTORS:** 11 High Street, Suffield, Connecticut, (860) 668-0712.  
1988 Cad. Sedan Deville, 78K ..... \$3,895 - \$2,995  
1985 Cad. Stretch Limo, 72K ..... \$2,695  
1986 Cad. Sedan Deville ..... \$1,595  
1992 Ford Tempo, full power, 76K . . \$3,695 - \$3,295  
1987 Ford Van, 15 pass., looks & drives like new, 77K

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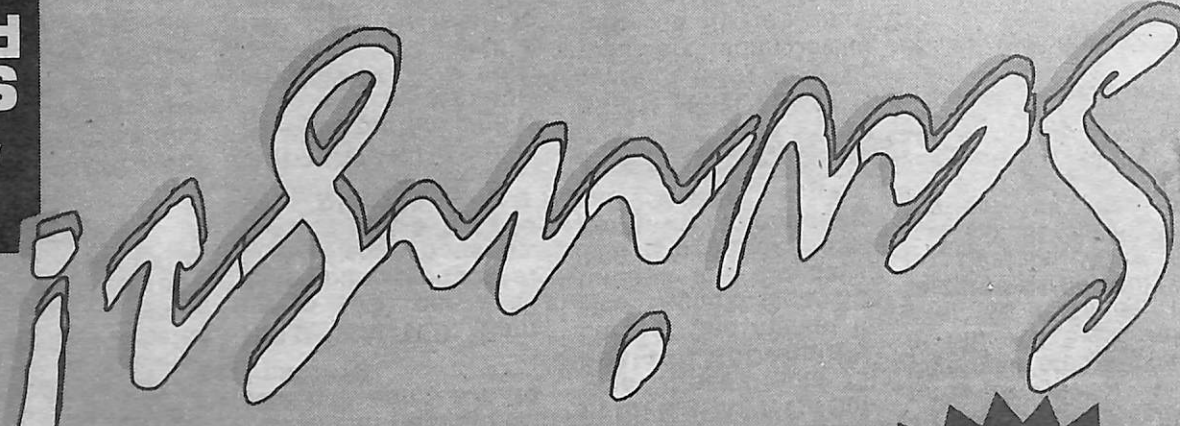


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SUNDAY - Feb. 15th 10:00 - 4:00  
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